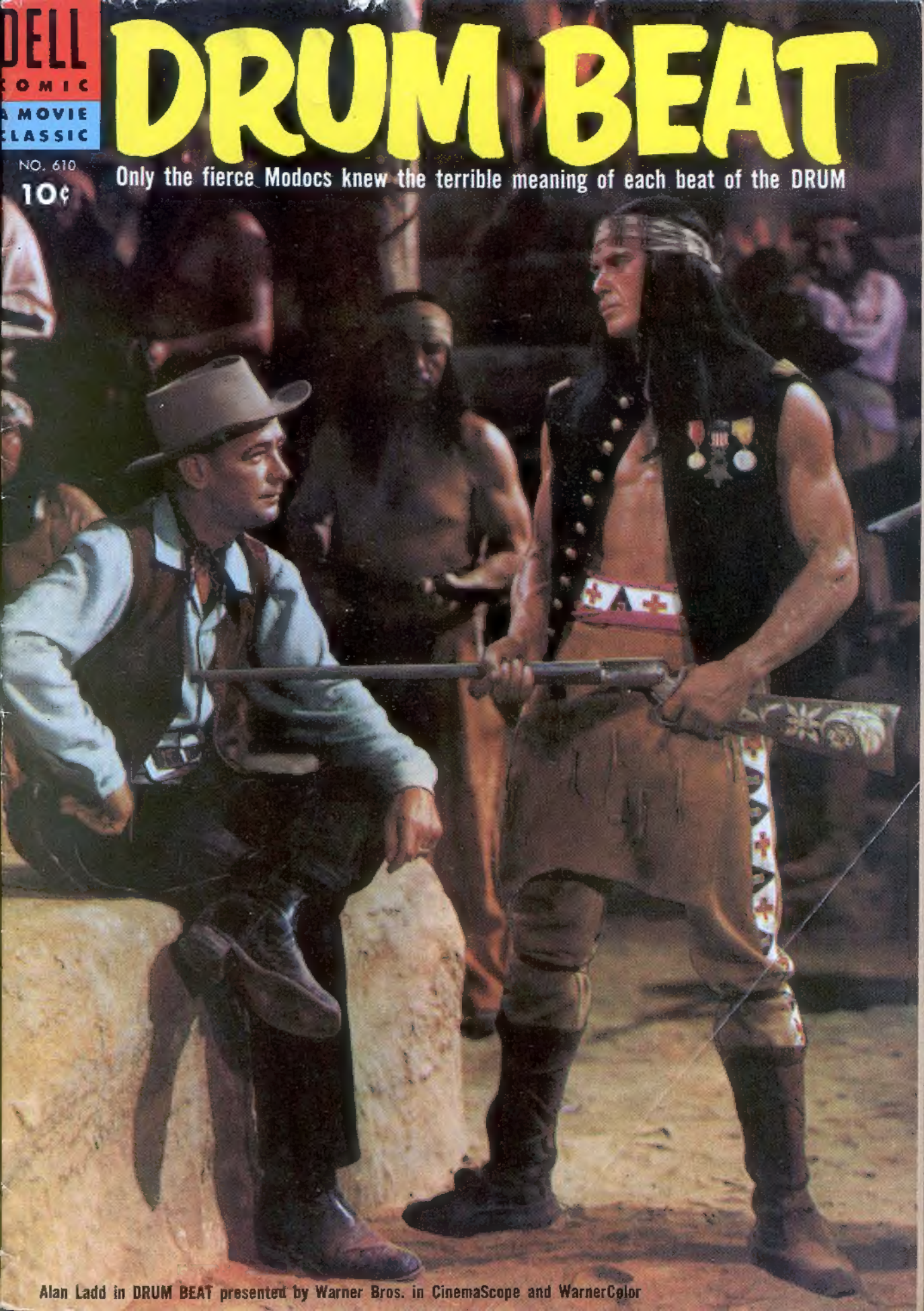
DELL
COMIC
A MOVIE
CLASSIC

NO. 610
10¢

DRUM BEAT

Only the fierce Modocs knew the terrible meaning of each beat of the DRUM



Alan Ladd in DRUM BEAT presented by Warner Bros. in CinemaScope and WarnerColor

WARNER BROS.

Pictures Present

ALAN LADD

in

DELMER DAVES'

"DRUM BEAT"

Co-Starring

AUDREY DALTON

MARSIA PAVAN

with

ROBERT KEITH

RODOLFO ACOSTA

in

CINEMASCOPE

in

WARNER COLOR

A JAGUAR PRODUCTION

Written and Directed By
DELMER DAVES

Presented by Warner Bros.

cover

ALAN LADD as JOHNNY MACKAY
Charles Bronson as Captain Jack

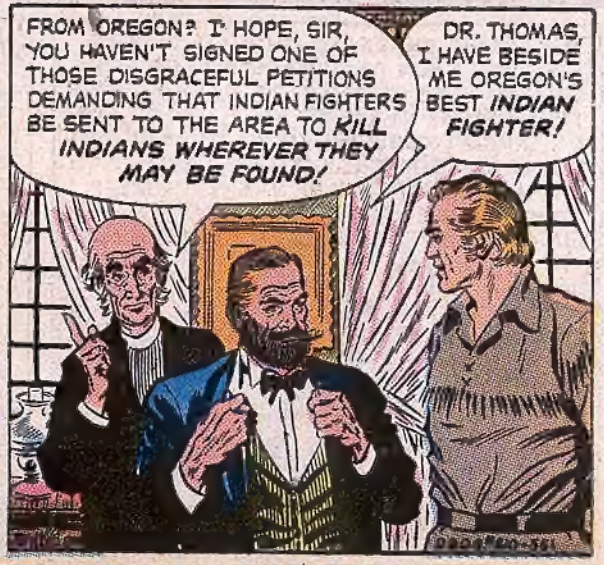
When The President asks one Indian Fighter . . .

To go after the Chief of The Modocs . . .

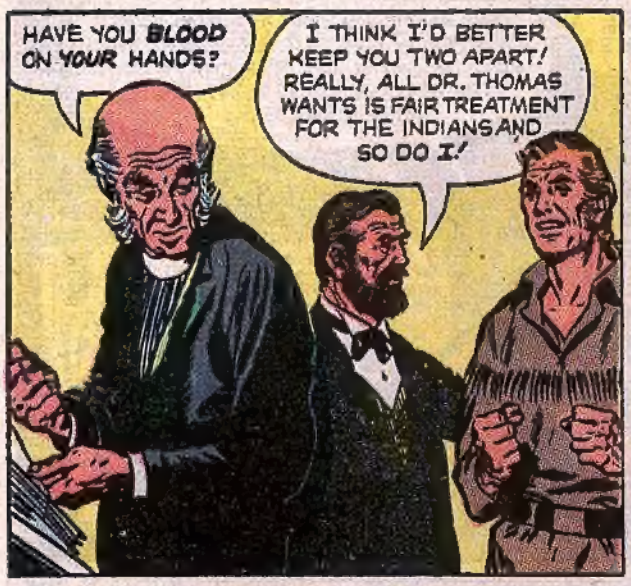
And he's the famous and dangerous Captain Jack . . .

It takes skill and courage to bring the Modoc in!

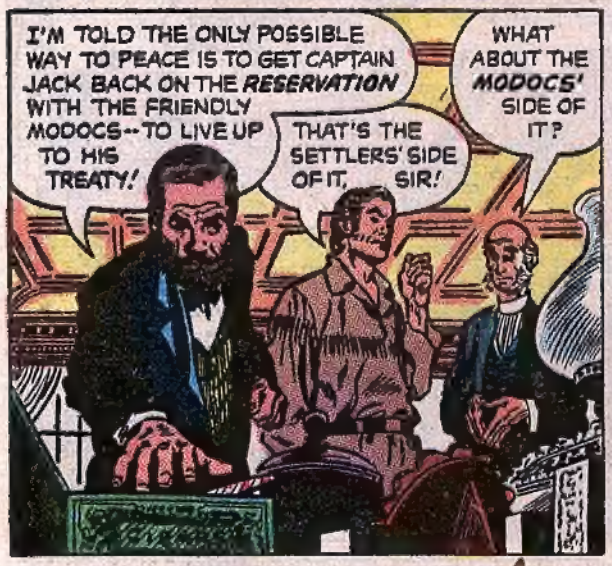
DRUM BEAT, No. 610. Published by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 261 Fifth Ave., New York 16, N. Y.; George T. Delacorte, Jr., President; Helen Meyer, Vice-President; Albert P. Delacorte, Vice-President. Single copies, 10 cents. Copyright, 1954, by Ladd Enterprises, Inc. All rights reserved throughout the world. Authorized Edition. From the Jaguar Production, a motion picture written by Delmer Daves presented by Warner Bros. Printed in U.S.A. Designed and produced by Western Printing & Lithographing Co.



DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS

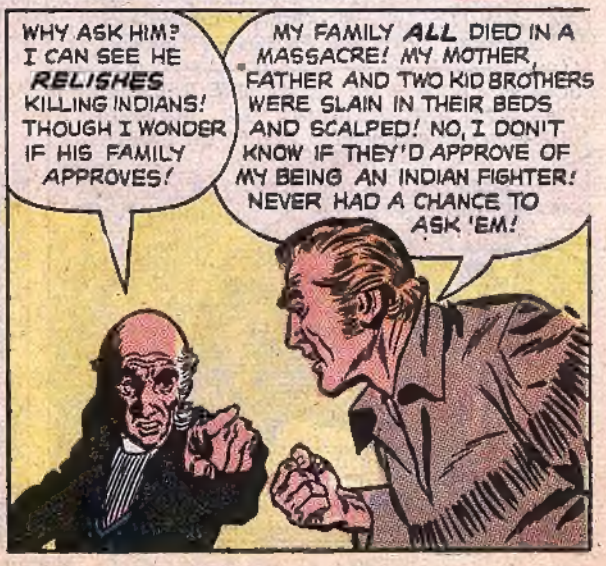

HAVE YOU BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS?
I THINK I'D BETTER KEEP YOU TWO APART! REALLY, ALL DR. THOMAS WANTS IS FAIR TREATMENT FOR THE INDIANS AND SO DO I!

MACKAY, I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE MODOC INDIAN TROUBLE AND THEIR LEADER--CAPTAIN JACK!
IT BOILS DOWN TO THIS, SIR--CAPTAIN JACK WANTS TO TAKE OVER THE WHOLE LOST RIVER VALLEY!


I'M TOLD THE ONLY POSSIBLE WAY TO PEACE IS TO GET CAPTAIN JACK BACK ON THE RESERVATION WITH THE FRIENDLY MODOCS--TO LIVE UP TO HIS TREATY!
THAT'S THE SETTLERS' SIDE OF IT, SIR!
WHAT ABOUT THE MODOCS' SIDE OF IT?

CAPTAIN JACK SAYS HE COULDN'T READ THE TREATY HE SIGNED FIVE YEARS BACK! BUT I'VE HUNTED AND FISHED WITH HIM AND KNOW HE CAN READ AND TALK ENGLISH. HE'S LYING!
I HAVE LETTERS FROM WHITE MEN PRAISING HIM TO THE SKIES!

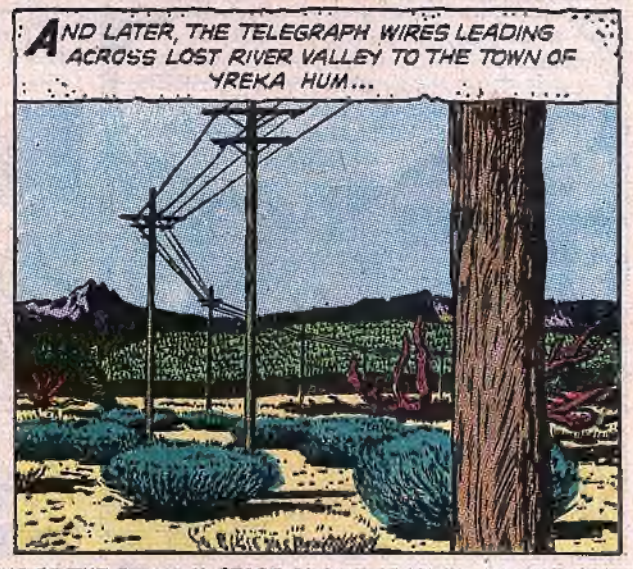
SURE! HE'S SMART ENOUGH TO FOOL WHITE MEN--THEN HE GETS THEM TO WRITE WHAT A GOOD INDIAN HE IS! WHENEVER HE GETS INTO TROUBLE, HE SHOWS THE LETTERS TO THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE. NOT THAT HE HAS TO WORRY--HE HAS THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE FOOLED, TOO!
I KNOW PEACEFUL MEANS HAVE FAILED, BUT MUST WE RESORT TO FORCE?


WHY ASK HIM? I CAN SEE HE RELISHES KILLING INDIANS! THOUGH I WONDER IF HIS FAMILY APPROVES!
MY FAMILY ALL DIED IN A MASSACRE! MY MOTHER, FATHER AND TWO KID BROTHERS WERE SLAIN IN THEIR BEDS AND SCALPED! NO, I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'D APPROVE OF MY BEING AN INDIAN FIGHTER! NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO ASK 'EM!

I SUPPOSE YOU WONDER WHY I SENT FOR YOU? I WAS EDUCATED AS A SOLDIER, SO I KNOW A FIGHTER KNOWS BEST THE MEANING OF PEACE! I WANT YOU TO LAY ASIDE YOUR RIFLE AND BRING PEACE TO THE MODOC VALLEY!
GET CAPTAIN JACK AND HIS MODOCS OUT OF LOST RIVER VALLEY-- TO THE RESERVATION?

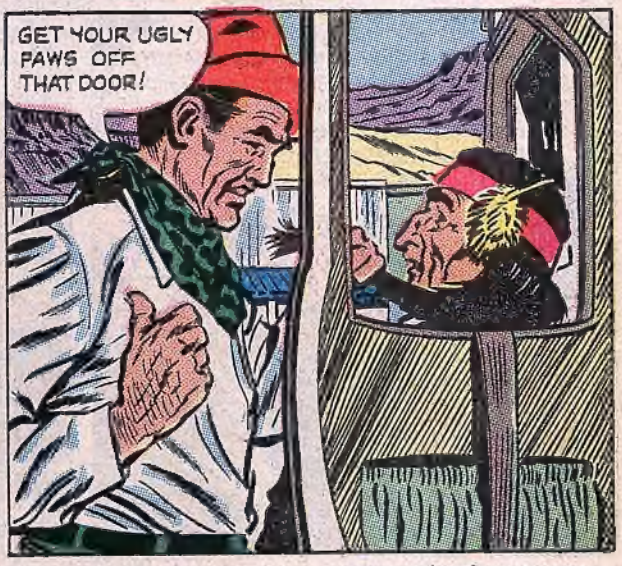
THAT'S THE ONLY AVENUE TO PEACE! AND I WANT YOU TO DO IT WITHOUT GUNS! WILL YOU TRY?
I SURE DIDN'T COME THREE THOUSAND MILES TO SAY "NO" TO MY PRESIDENT!

AND I'VE ANOTHER, BUT MORE PLEASANT TASK FOR YOU! MISS NANCY MEEK IS THE DAUGHTER OF ONE OF MY OLDEST FRIENDS, COLONEL MEEK! SHE IS GOING TO SETTLE ON HIS RANCH IN LOST VALLEY! YOU'LL ESCORT HER THERE!

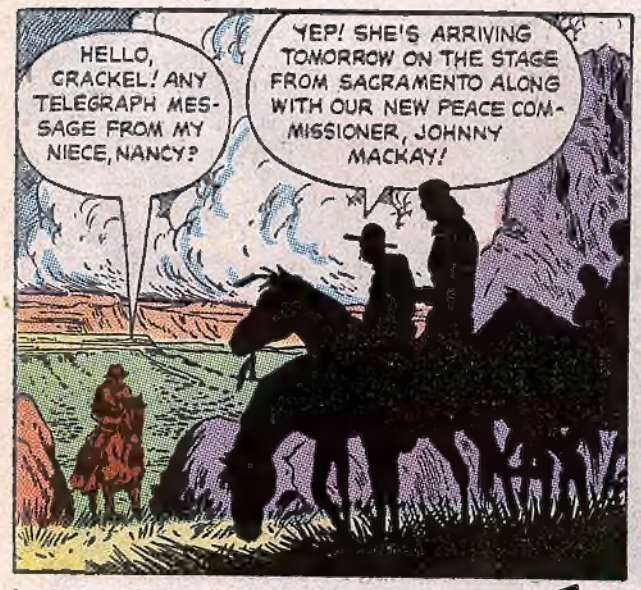

AND LATER, THE TELEGRAPH WIRES LEADING ACROSS LOST RIVER VALLEY TO THE TOWN OF YREKA HUM...

CAPT. CLARK, USA
FORT KLAMATH, OREG
JOHNNY MACKAY RETURN
WEST AS PEACE COMMISSIO
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTLY TO
ME. YOUR TROOPS WILL
COOPERATE. PERSONAL
REGARDS.
U.S. GRANT

AS INSIDE THE GENERAL STORE, BLAINE CRACKEL, JUSTICE OF PEACE, TELEGRAPHER AND TRADER, COPIES THE MESSAGE...
HONEY, YOUR CHIEF'S GOING TO GET A GOOD LAUGH AT THIS MESSAGE! WHERE IS CAPTAIN JACK?
SOME OF HIS BRAVES OUTSIDE! THEY KNOW!
TELEGRAPH

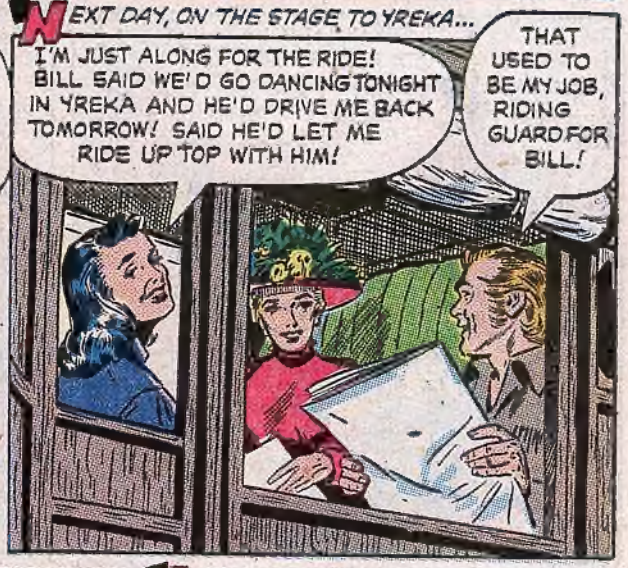


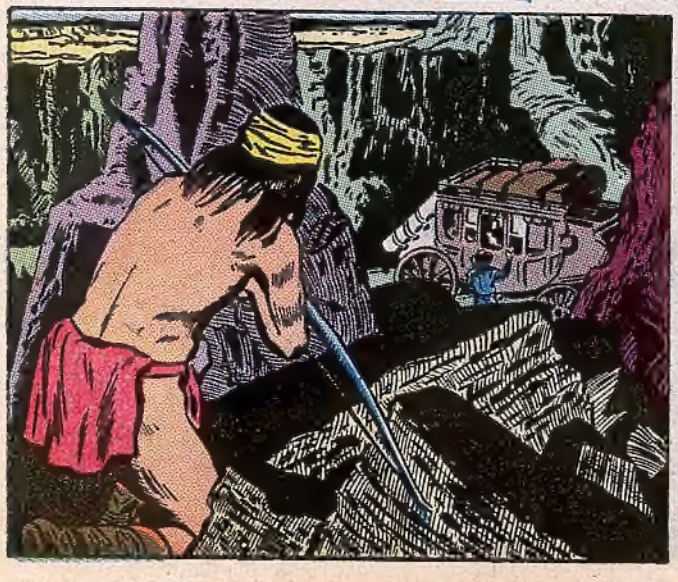
LATER... AS BLAINE CRACKEL RIDES WITH THE MODOC BRAVES ALONG LOST RIVER VALLEY, HE MEETS AND TELLS THE TELEGRAPH MESSAGE TO CAPTAIN JACK...


HELLO, CRACKEL! ANY TELEGRAPH MESSAGE FROM MY NIECE, NANCY?
YEP! SHE'S ARRIVING TOMORROW ON THE STAGE FROM SACRAMENTO ALONG WITH OUR NEW PEACE COMMISSIONER, JOHNNY MACKAY!

WHY YOU WEAR THIS SOLDIER SUIT? YOU GOING TO FIGHT AGAIN, MAYBE?
NO! I'VE BEEN UP TO FORT KLAMATH! THEY JUST GOT AROUND TO GIVING ME THIS MEDAL!

YOU'RE A FARMER NOW! WHAT YOU WANT WITH MEDALS? MAYBE YOU BETTER SELL THEM TO ME!
NO, THANKS! AND MAYBE YOU HAD BETTER STOP WEARING A CAPTAIN'S COAT YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO WEAR AND MEDALS SOMEBODY ELSE MAY HAVE DIED FOR.


NEXT DAY, ON THE STAGE TO YREKA...
I'M JUST ALONG FOR THE RIDE! BILL SAID WE'D GO DANCING TONIGHT IN YREKA AND HE'D DRIVE ME BACK TOMORROW! SAID HE'D LET ME RIDE UP TOP WITH HIM!
THAT USED TO BE MY JOB, RIDING GUARD FOR BILL!

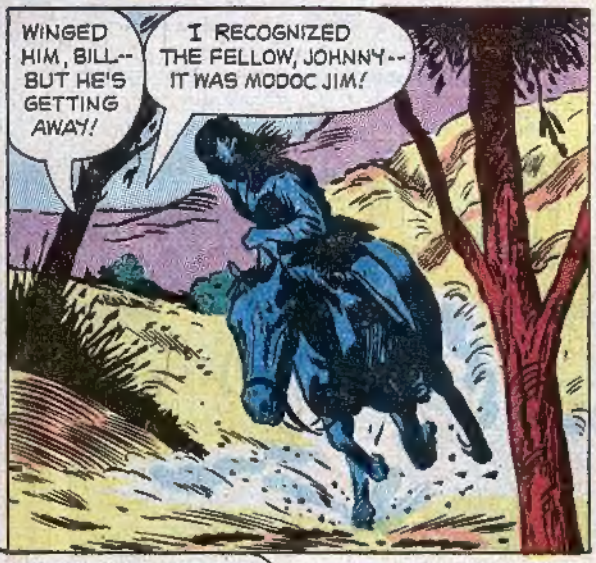


AND AS THE HORSES DRINK, SUDDENLY...

BILL...

INJUNS!
GET DOWN!

I SEE HIM-BUT HE'S RIDING LOW!


WINGED HIM, BILL-- BUT HE'S GETTING AWAY!
I RECOGNIZED THE FELLOW, JOHNNY-- IT WAS MODOC JIM!

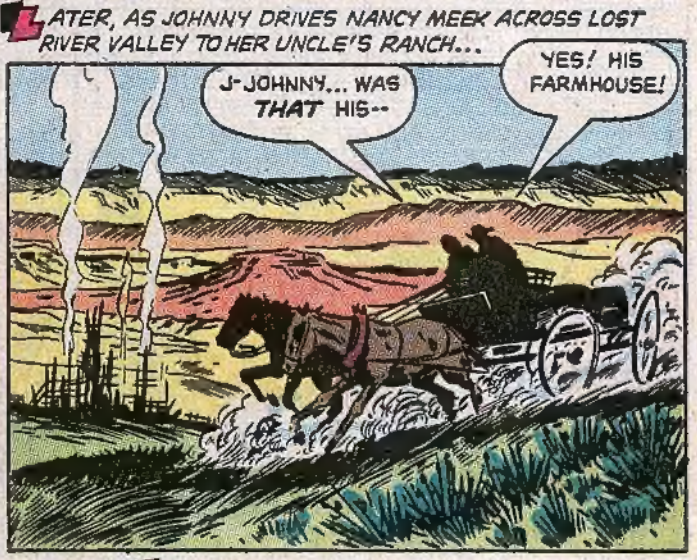
I-I JUST CAME ALONG FOR THE RIDE, BILL...
JOHNNY-- SHE'S GONE!

NOW HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PEACE COMMISSIONER?

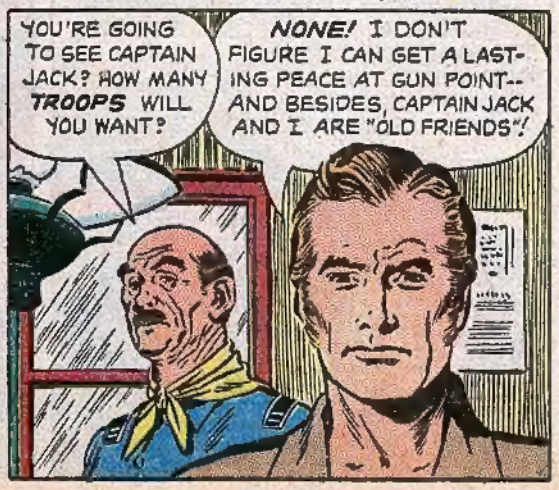
LATER BY CEMETERY HILL...
WHO ASKED YOU HERE, CRACKEL?
I WAS JUST PAYING MY RESPECTS TO THE DECEASED
CE

GO PAY YOUR RESPECTS TO YOUR INJUN FRIEND, CAPTAIN JACK! TELL HIM WE LOST ONE INJUN FIGHTER WHEN JOHNNY MACKAY SIGNED UP AS PEACE COMMISSIONER, BUT WE JUST GOT A NEW ONE--ME! AND IF MODOC JIM'S STILL LIVING, I'M GOING TO KILL HIM!

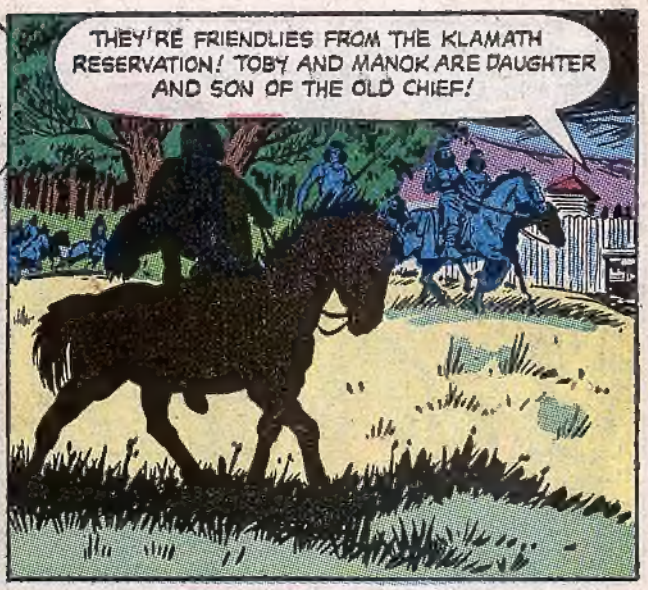
I HOPE MY SHOT KILLED MODOC JIM! I HOPE I SAVED YOU THE TROUBLE, BILL, BECAUSE IT'S GOING TO BE TOUGH MAKING PEACE!
YOU DISH OUT YOUR PEACE, JOHNNY-- I'LL DISH OUT MY END!


LATER, AS JOHNNY DRIVES NANCY MEEK ACROSS LOST RIVER VALLEY TO HER UNCLE'S RANCH...
J-JOHNNY... WAS THAT HIS--
YES! HIS FARMHOUSE!

DEAD-- AND THE MEDALS WERE RIPPED FROM HIS UNIFORM!


TAKING NANCY MEEK TO FORT KLAMATH FOR QUARTERS, JOHNNY TELLS CAPTAIN CLARK, COMMANDANT AND ACTING INDIAN AGENT, HIS PLANS...
YOU'RE GOING TO SEE CAPTAIN JACK? HOW MANY TROOPS WILL YOU WANT?
NONE! I DON'T FIGURE I CAN GET A LASTING PEACE AT GUN POINT-- AND BESIDES, CAPTAIN JACK AND I ARE "OLD FRIENDS"!

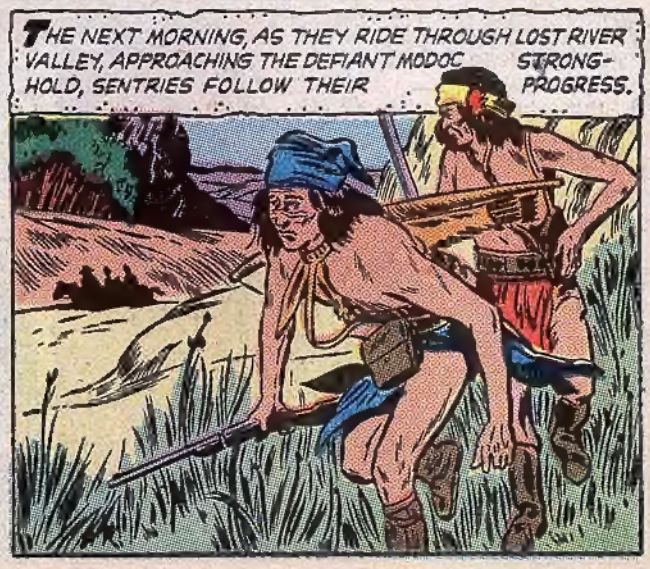
JOHNNY, THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GRANT IN THEIR TELEGRAM OF CONDOLENCE OFFERED TO TAKE ME INTO THEIR FAMILY! THEY'RE VERY GENEROUS-- BUT I CAME HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO HELP SETTLE THE WEST! MY UNCLE'S FARM IS MINE NOW--I'M STAYING!
CAPTAIN! MODOCS!

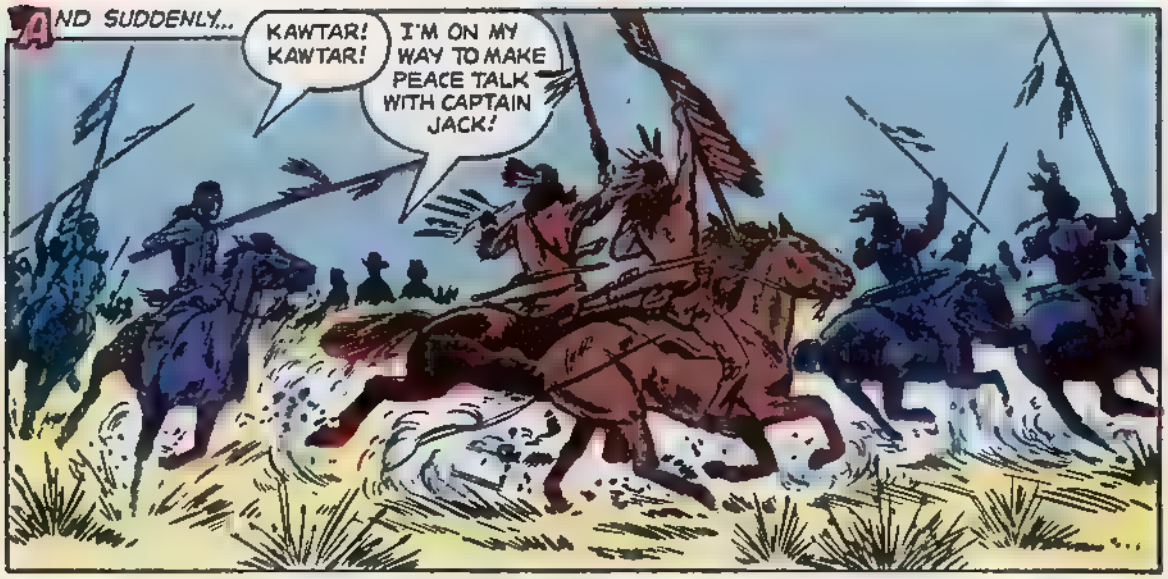

THEY'RE FRIENDLIES FROM THE KLAMATH RESERVATION! TOBY AND MANOK ARE DAUGHTER AND SON OF THE OLD CHIEF!

HELLO, TOBY! HELLO, MANOK!
MY BROTHER AND I COME FROM THE KLAMATH RIVER TO SPEAK FOR OUR PEOPLE! WE LEARN YOU COME TO BRING PEACE! WE WANT IT! BUT CAPTAIN JACK WILL NOT SETTLE FOR LESS THAN WHAT HE WANTS!

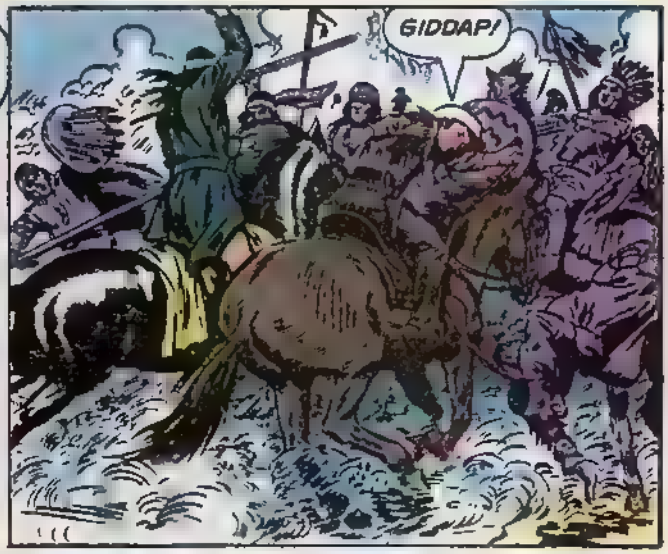
HOW DO YOU SUGGEST I GET PEACE FOR YOUR PEOPLE?
I THINK IT BEST THAT YOU KILL CAPTAIN JACK!

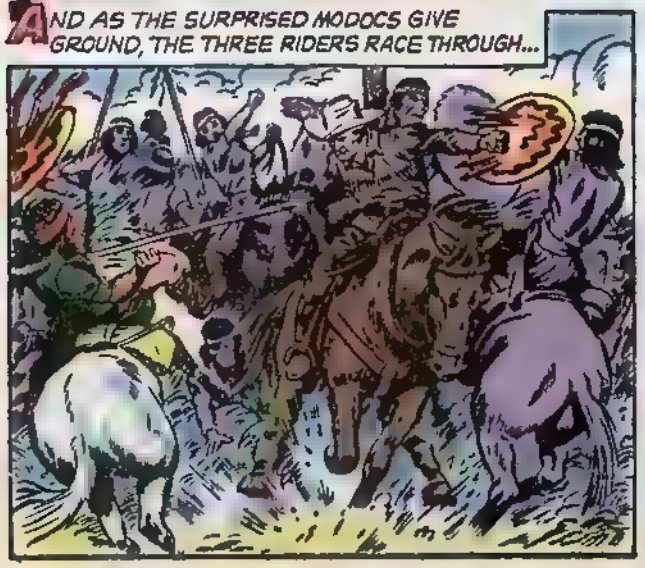
MAYBE THAT'S THE RIGHT WAY, BUT I'VE GIVEN MY WORD TO THE PRESIDENT THAT I'LL TRY FOR PEACE WITHOUT GUNS! I'M RIDING ALONE FOR CAPTAIN JACK'S CAMP AT DAWN.
ALONE? YOU SAVED MY LIFE ONE TIME. TOMORROW, MANOK AND I GO WITH YOU!


THE NEXT MORNING, AS THEY RIDE THROUGH LOST RIVER VALLEY, APPROACHING THE DEFIANT MODOC STRONG-HOLD, SENTRIES FOLLOW THEIR PROGRESS.

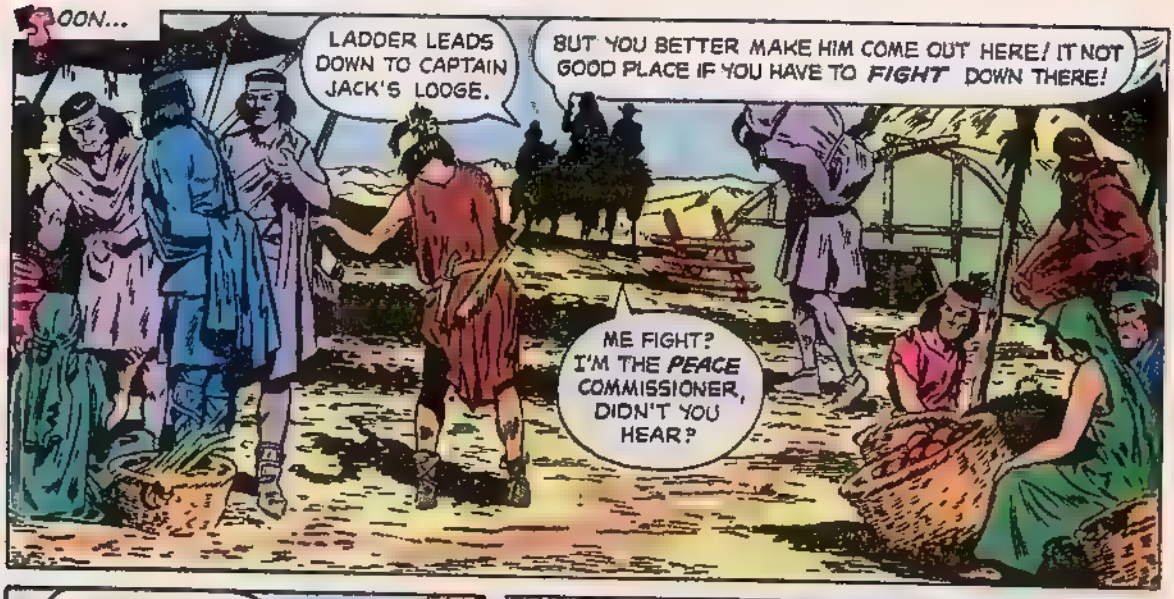

AND SUDDENLY...
KAWTAR! KAWTAR!
I'M ON MY WAY TO MAKE PEACE TALK WITH CAPTAIN JACK!

ENOWA!
HE SAYS CAPTAIN JACK NOT TALK.
I UNDERSTAND! AND IF THEY DON'T MOVE, THEY'RE GETING RUN OVER!


GIDDAP!

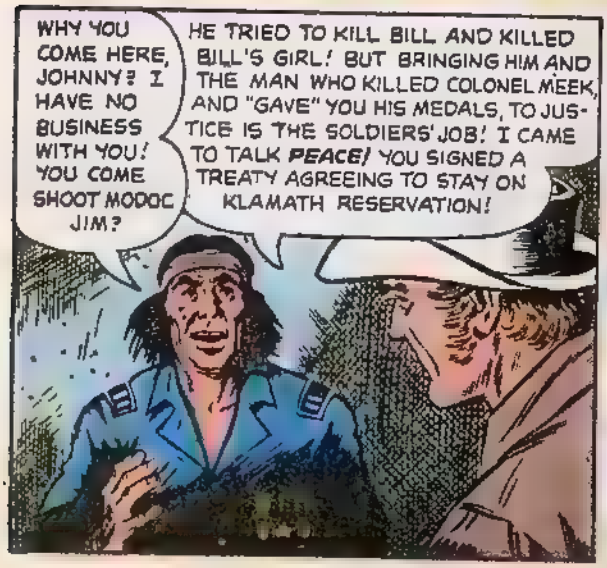

AND AS THE SURPRISED MODOCS GIVE GROUND, THE THREE RIDERS RACE THROUGH...

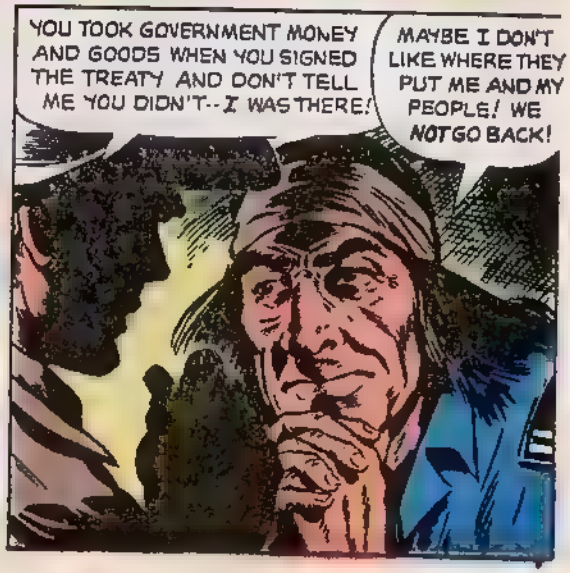
WHY DIDN'T THEY SHOOT?
MAYBE THE SHOOTING COMES NEXT!

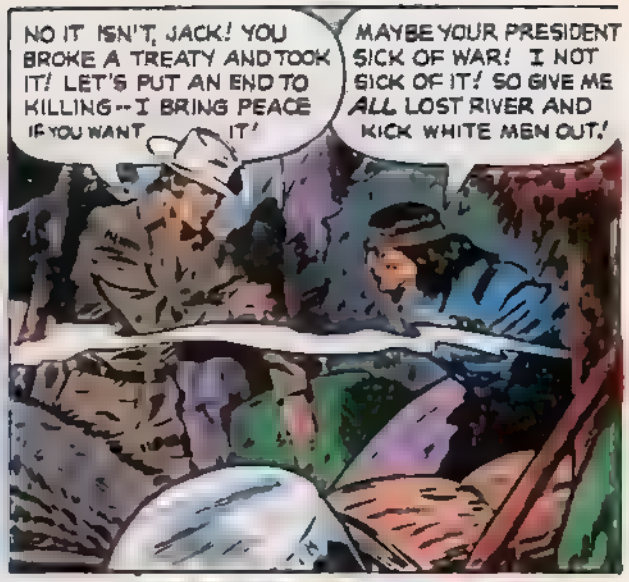

SOON...
LADDER LEADS DOWN TO CAPTAIN JACK'S LODGE.
BUT YOU BETTER MAKE HIM COME OUT HERE! IT NOT GOOD PLACE IF YOU HAVE TO FIGHT DOWN THERE!
ME FIGHT? I'M THE PEACE COMMISSIONER, DIDN'T YOU HEAR?

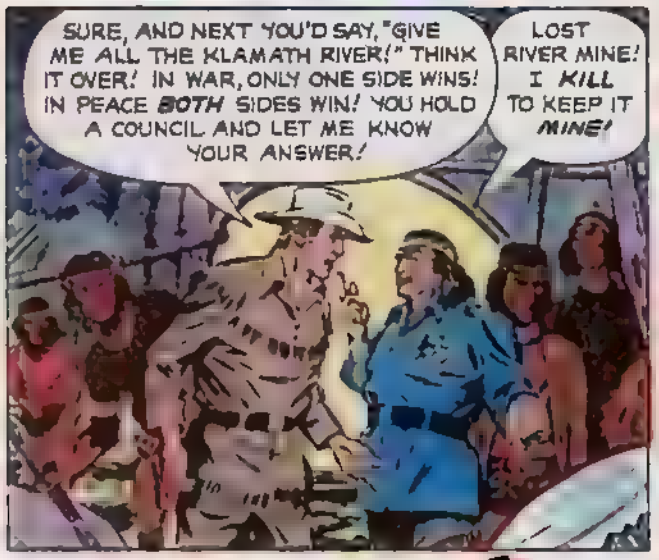
SURE, I HEAR- BUT MAYBE CAPTAIN JACK WON'T HEAR SO GOOD!
HOLD MY GUNBELT!

HOWDY, JACK! SMOKE?

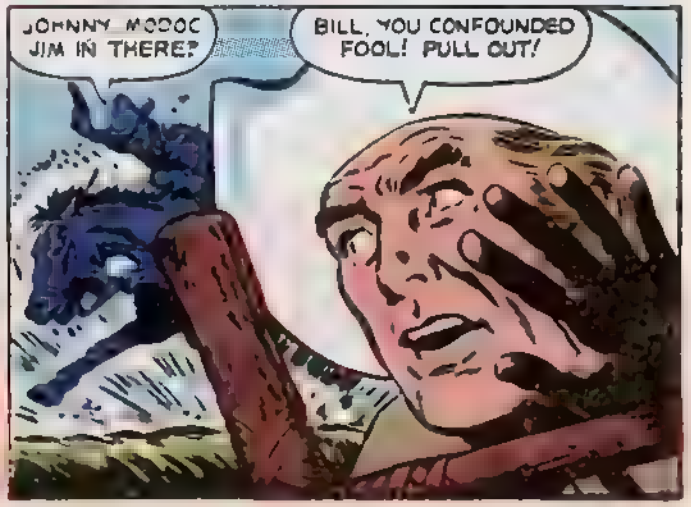

WHY YOU COME HERE, JOHNNY? I HAVE NO BUSINESS WITH YOU! YOU COME SHOOT MODOC JIM?
HE TRIED TO KILL BILL AND KILLED BILL'S GIRL! BUT BRINGING HIM AND THE MAN WHO KILLED COLONEL MEEK, AND "GAVE" YOU HIS MEDALS, TO JUSTICE IS THE SOLDIERS' JOB! I CAME TO TALK PEACE! YOU SIGNED A TREATY AGREEING TO STAY ON KLAMATH RESERVATION!

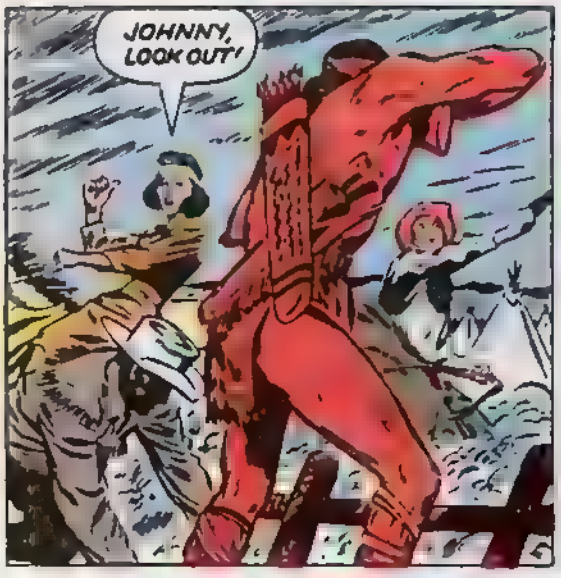

YOU TOOK GOVERNMENT MONEY AND GOODS WHEN YOU SIGNED THE TREATY AND DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T-- I WAS THERE!
MAYBE I DON'T LIKE WHERE THEY PUT ME AND MY PEOPLE! WE NOT GO BACK!

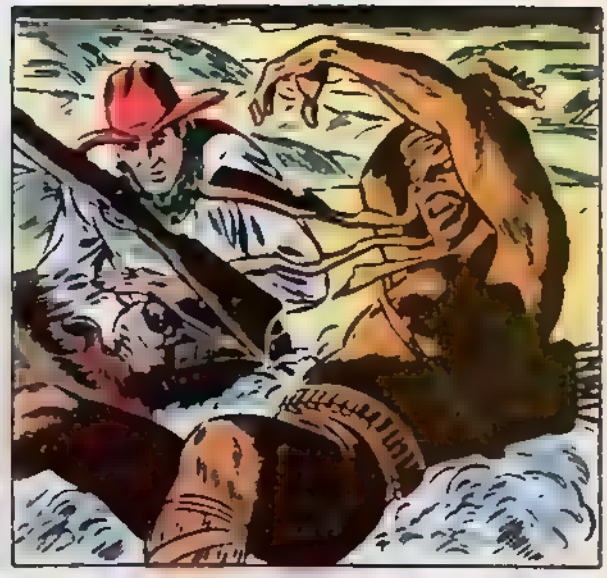




AS JOHNNY STARTS UP THE LADDER, CAPTAIN JACK NODS AND MODOC JIM FOLLOWS, RIFLE IN HAND. WHILE OUTSIDE...







AS JOHNNY AND THE OTHERS GALLOP FROM THE MODOC CAMP, WAR DRUMS BEAT..

ONE AFTER ANOTHER UNSUSPECTING LOST RIVER PIONEERS FALL BEFORE THE SUDDEN ATTACK.

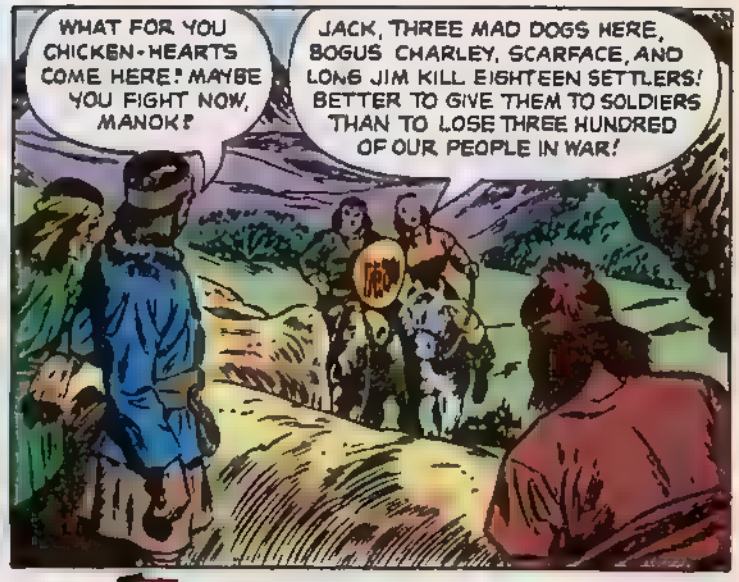
AS JOHNNY RIDES TO WARN THE SETTLERS BILL BRINGS WORD TO THE FORT...

SOUND BOOTS AND SADDLE!

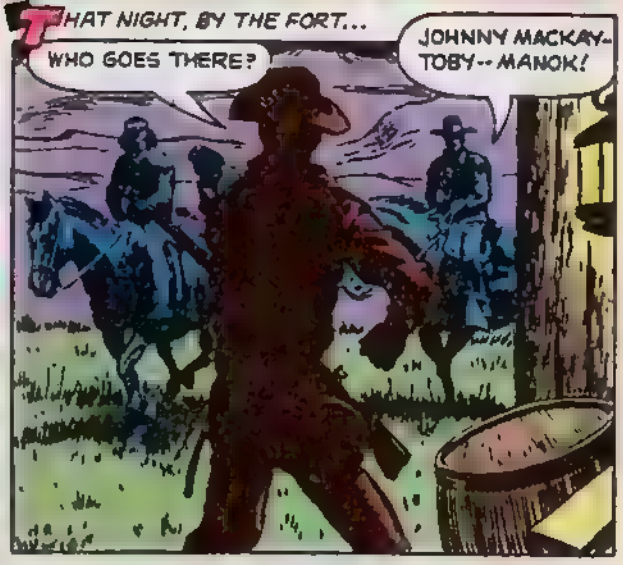
LIEUTENANT GOODSALL, RIDE TO FORT BIDWELL FOR REINFORCEMENTS! OUR FIRST TASK WILL BE TO MAKE CERTAIN THE MODOCS ON THE RESERVATION DON'T JOIN CAPTAIN JACK!

AND IN STRONGHOLD ROCK CAPTAIN JACK'S MODOCS PREPARE FOR WAR

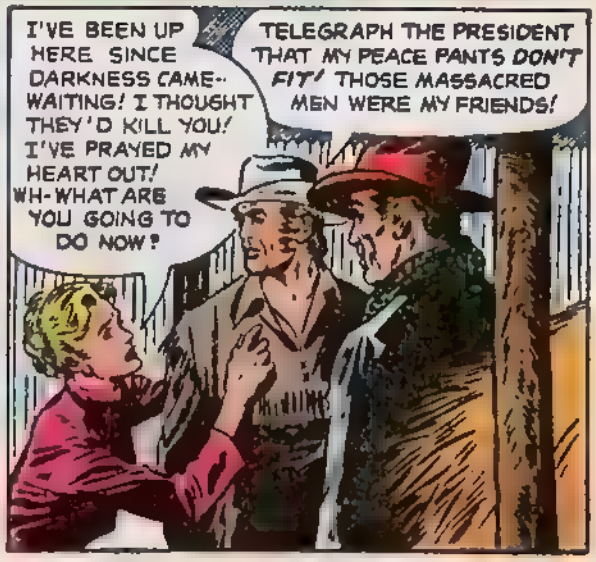
SOLDIERS KNOW NOW, BOGUS CHARLEY! TELL CAPTAIN JACK, MANOK AND TOBY COME!

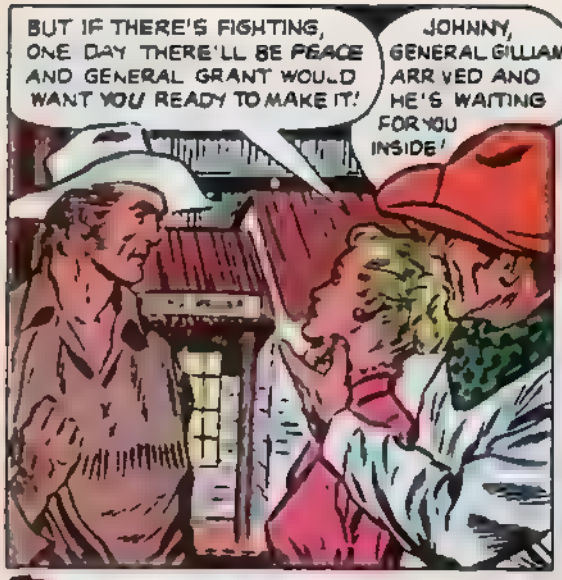

WHAT FOR YOU CHICKEN-HEARTS COME HERE? MAYBE YOU FIGHT NOW, MANOK?
JACK, THREE MAD DOGS HERE, BOGUS CHARLEY, SCARFACE, AND LONG JIM KILL EIGHTEEN SETTLERS! BETTER TO GIVE THEM TO SOLDIERS THAN TO LOSE THREE HUNDRED OF OUR PEOPLE IN WAR!

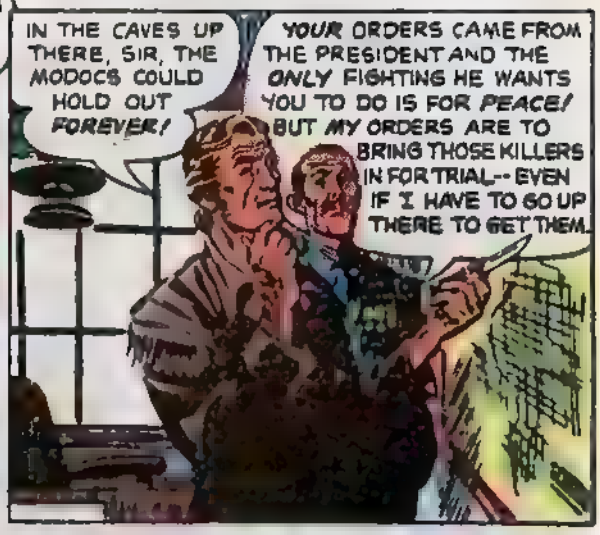
YOU CAN SAVE OUR PEOPLE, JACK! YOU CAN DO THIS!
I NOT AFRAID OF WAR!
WE KILL PLENTY SOLDIERS PRETTY GOOD!


THAT NIGHT, BY THE FORT...
WHO GOES THERE?
JOHNNY MACKAY-TOBY--MANOK!

KNOW WHERE THE MODOCS ARE, JOHNNY?
STRONGHOLD ROCK! THIS ISN'T TURNING INTO A PICNIC!


I'VE BEEN UP HERE SINCE DARKNESS CAME--WAITING! I THOUGHT THEY'D KILL YOU! I'VE PRAYED MY HEART OUT! WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
TELEGRAPH THE PRESIDENT THAT MY PEACE PANTS DON'T FIT! THOSE MASSACRED MEN WERE MY FRIENDS!


BUT IF THERE'S FIGHTING, ONE DAY THERE'LL BE PEACE AND GENERAL GRANT WOULD WANT YOU READY TO MAKE IT!
JOHNNY, GENERAL GILLIAM ARRIVED AND HE'S WAITING FOR YOU INSIDE!

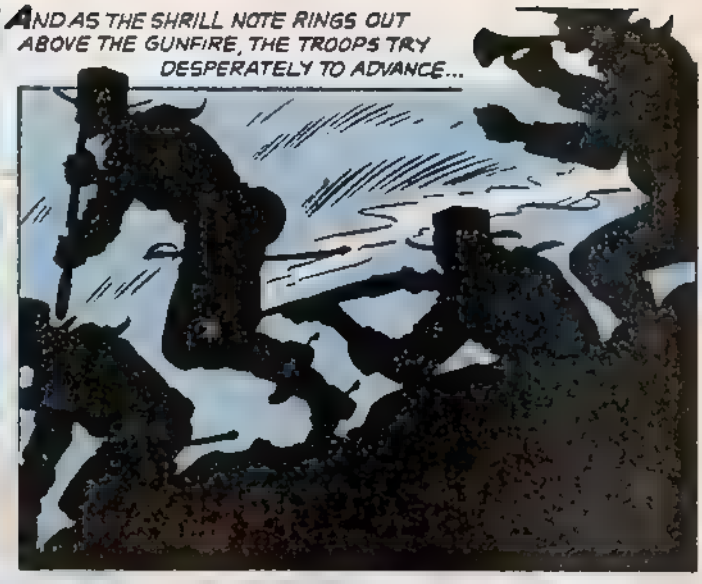

QUICKLY, JOHNNY EXPLAINS TO THE COMMANDING GENERAL WHERE CAPTAIN JACK HAS HOLED UP...
IN THE CAVES UP THERE, SIR, THE MODOCS COULD HOLD OUT FOREVER!
YOUR ORDERS CAME FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE ONLY FIGHTING HE WANTS YOU TO DO IS FOR PEACE! BUT MY ORDERS ARE TO BRING THOSE KILLERS IN FOR TRIAL-- EVEN IF I HAVE TO GO UP THERE TO GET THEM.

DAWN, AT THE FOOT OF STRONGHOLD ROCK...
THE LINES MOVING FORWARD, JOHNNY! I'M TAKING THE OREGON VOLUNTEERS AROUND THE EAST SIDE WHERE THEY'VE GOT A BETTER CHANCE!
GOOD LUCK, BILL! I'M STUCK DOWN HERE BEING "PEACE" COMMISSIONER!

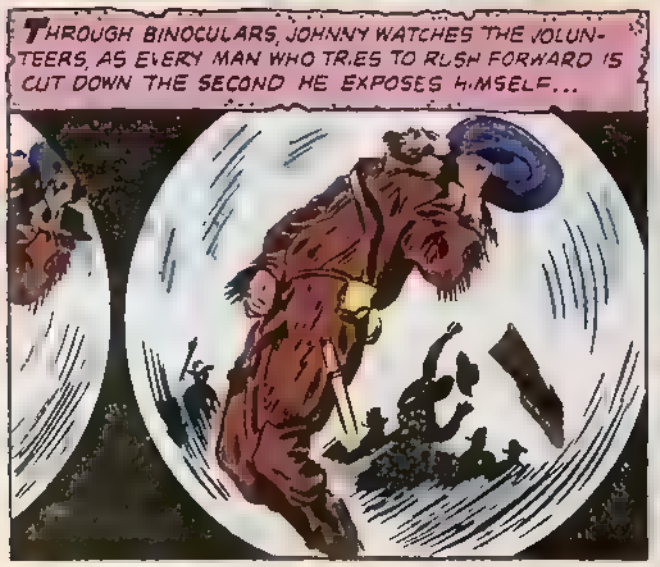
ONLY THE SOUND OF BOOTS STRIKING SHALE BREAKS THE GRIM SILENCE, AS THE DISMOUNTED CAVALRYMEN PUSH UPWARD...

THEN SUDDENLY...
OWW!!
THEY'RE UP THERE, ALL RIGHT! FORWARD!

BUGLAR--SOUND THE CHARGE!

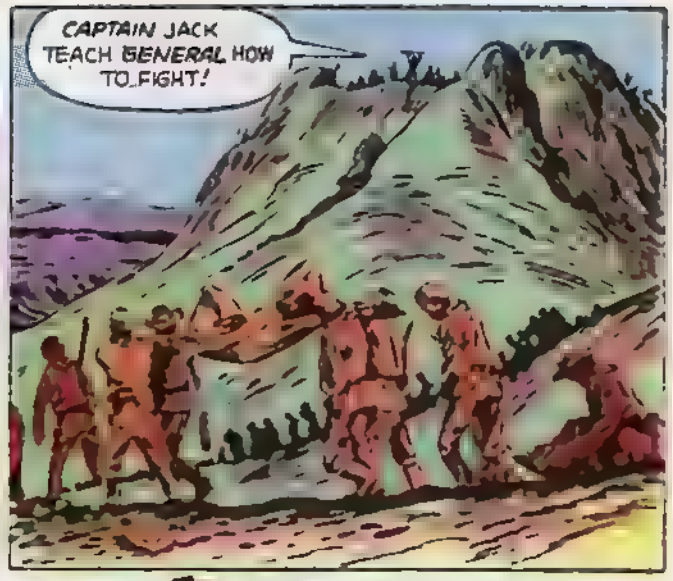

AND AS THE SHRILL NOTE RINGS OUT ABOVE THE GUNFIRE, THE TROOPS TRY DESPERATELY TO ADVANCE...

LET'S TAKE IT, MEN! UP--ALL THE WAY!
OWW!!
CAN'T HIT 'EM IF YOU CAN'T SEE 'EM!
BUT THEY SURE SEE US!

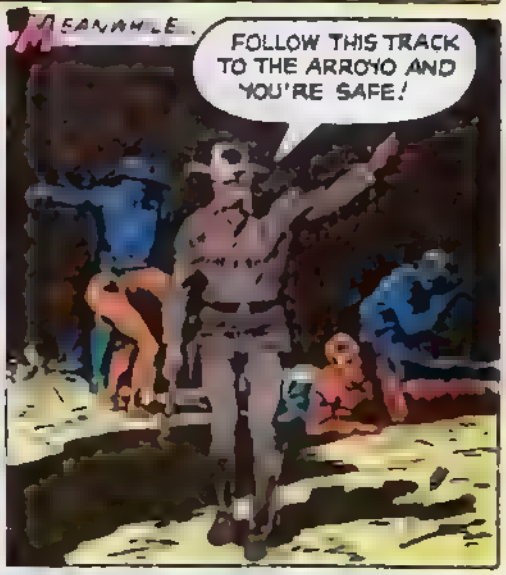

THROUGH BINOCULARS, JOHNNY WATCHES THE VOLUNTEERS, AS EVERY MAN WHO TRIES TO RUSH FORWARD IS CUT DOWN THE SECOND HE EXPOSES HIMSELF...

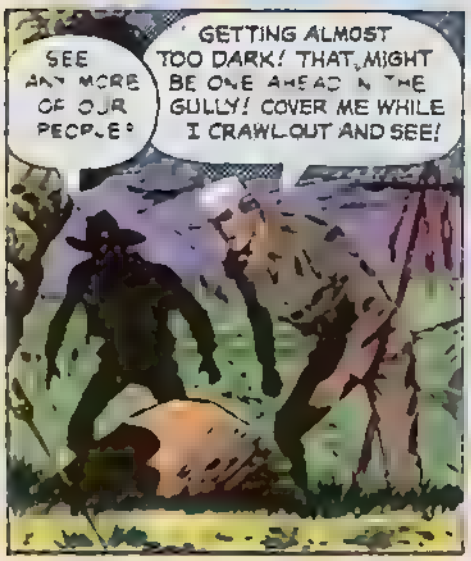
THEY CAN'T SURVIVE THAT CROSS-FIRE, SIR!
THEY WON'T REACH THE SUMMIT--SOUND THE RETREAT!

RETREAT!
TAKE THE WOUNDED! DON'T LEAVE ANY UP HERE FOR MODOC SCALPING KNIVES!

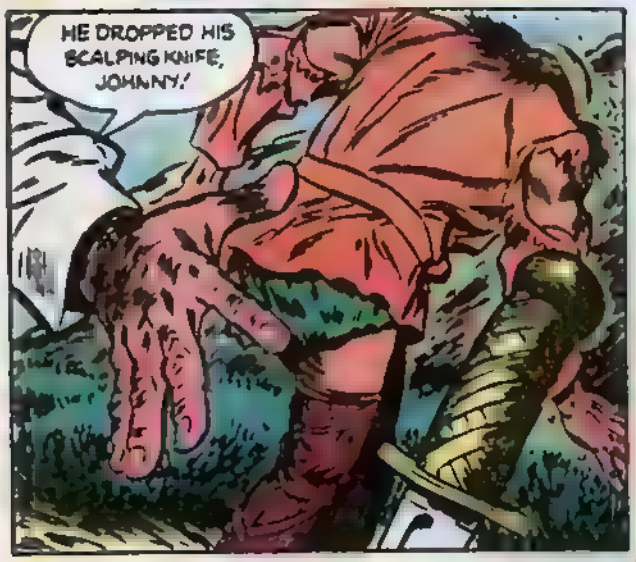

CAPTAIN JACK TEACH GENERAL HOW TO FIGHT!

AT NIGHT AT FORT KLAMATH
DID YOU SEE JOHNNY MACKAY OUT THERE?
YES JOHNNY AND BILL ARE ON STRONGHOLD ROCK-- MAKING SURE NO WOUNDED ARE LEFT BEHIND


MEANWHILE.
FOLLOW THIS TRACK TO THE ARROYO AND YOU'RE SAFE!

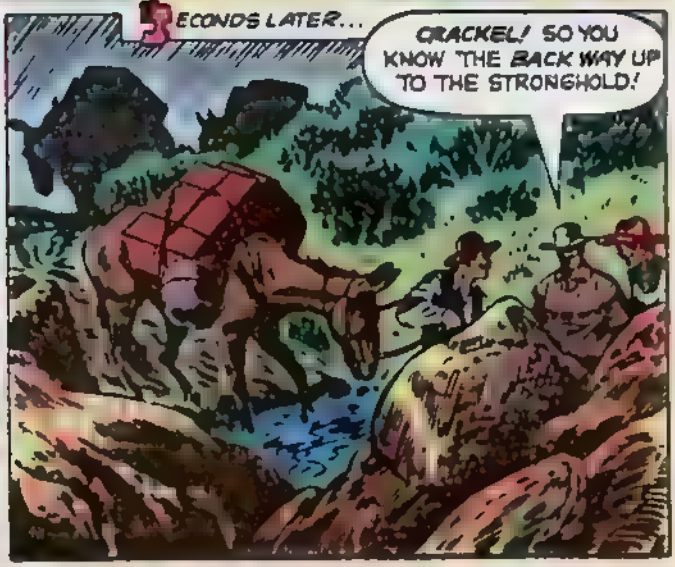

SEE ANY MORE OF OUR PEOPLE?
GETTING ALMOST TOO DARK! THAT MIGHT BE ONE AHEAD IN THE GULLY! COVER ME WHILE I CRAWL OUT AND SEE!

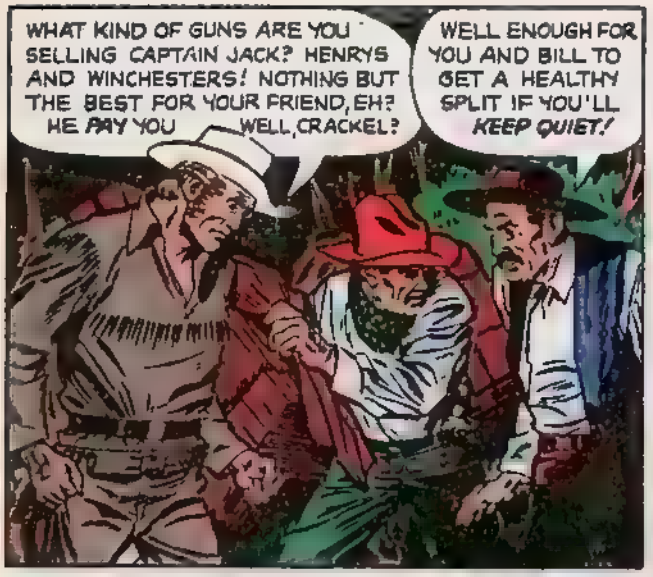
JUST A DISCARDED JACKET!

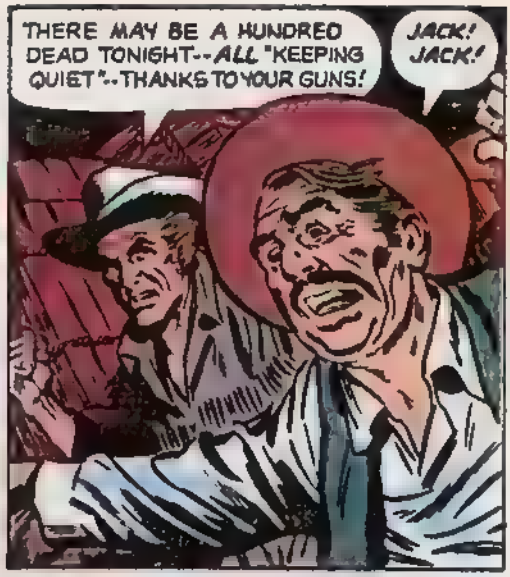

HE DROPPED HIS SCALPING KNIFE, JOHNNY!

WELL, I'LL JUST GIVE HIM BACK HIS KNIFE!
OW!

THANKS, BILL! I--
QUIET-- HORSES!

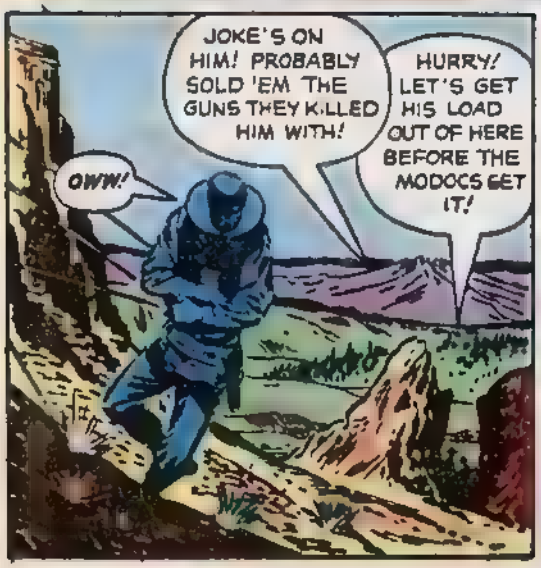

SECONDS LATER...
CRACKEL! SO YOU KNOW THE BACK WAY UP TO THE STRONGHOLD!

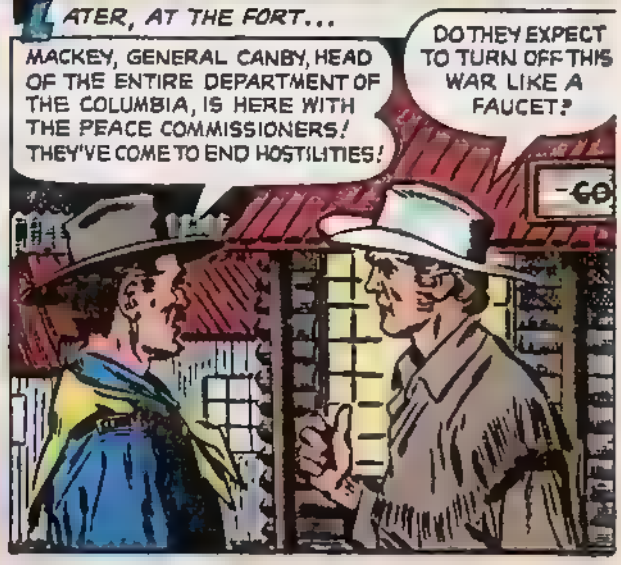

WHAT KIND OF GUNS ARE YOU SELLING CAPTAIN JACK? HENRYS AND WINCHESTERS! NOTHING BUT THE BEST FOR YOUR FRIEND, EH? HE PAY YOU
WELL, CRACKEL?
WELL ENOUGH FOR YOU AND BILL TO GET A HEALTHY SPLIT IF YOU'LL KEEP QUIET!


THERE MAY BE A HUNDRED DEAD TONIGHT--ALL "KEEPING QUIET"--THANKS TO YOUR GUNS!
JACK! JACK!

GRAB THE RENEGADE!
KEEP BACK BEFORE THE MODOCS OPEN FIRE!

A WHITE MAN!
JACK!


JOKE'S ON HIM! PROBABLY SOLD 'EM THE GUNS THEY KILLED HIM WITH!
HURRY! LET'S GET HIS LOAD OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE MODOCS GET IT!
OWW!


LATER, AT THE FORT...
MACKEY, GENERAL CANBY, HEAD OF THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA, IS HERE WITH THE PEACE COMMISSIONERS! THEY'VE COME TO END HOSTILITIES!
DO THEY EXPECT TO TURN OFF THIS WAR LIKE A FAUCET?
GO

INSIDE, JOHNNY MEETS GENERAL CANBY..

MR. MACKAY, THE SECRETARY OF WAR HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO ***CEASE ALL*** OPERATIONS AGAINST THE MODOCS! GENERAL GILLIAM WILL USE TROOPS ONLY TO REPEL ATTACK! DO YOU THINK THAT SHOULD HELP ACHIEVE A PEACE?

NO, SIR! THERE ARE ***TOO MANY DEAD!*** THERE WON'T BE PEACE TILL THE MODOCS WHO MURDERED THE SETTLERS ARE TRIED AND PUNISHED!

MR. MACKAY, THE PRESIDENT SENT ME TO HEAD OUR PEACE COMMISSION! HE DIDN'T THINK A ***WHOLE-HEARTED*** PEACE ADVOCATE WOULD HURT!

WE'LL NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET, DR. THOMAS! I KNOW MR. DYAR HERE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE US GOOD ADVICE! HE'S ONE OF THE EARLIEST PIONEERS IN THIS TERRITORY!

HOW CAN WE ARRANGE A MEETING WITH CAPTAIN JACK?

TOBY AND MANOK ARE FRIENDLY INDIANS WHO WANT PEACE AS MUCH AS WE DO! WE CAN TRUST THEM TO ARRANGE A POWWOW!

OUR CAUSE IS GOOD! WITH HEAVEN'S HELP, WE CAN'T FAIL!

HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, DOC! BUT HEAVEN'S PLENTY FAR FROM ***THAT*** STRONGHOLD!

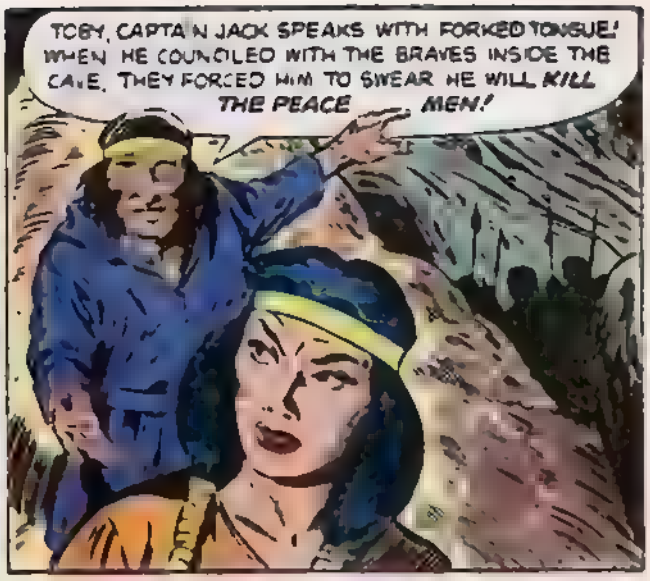
THE NEXT DAY, TOBY AND MANOK TELL CAPTAIN JACK OF THE PEACE COMMISSIONERS' DESIRE FOR A MEETING. IN SECRET COUNCIL, THE MODOCS PLAN TO AMBUSH THE PEACE OFFICERS AND THEN CAPTAIN JACK RETURNS WITH A MESSAGE.

I WILL MAKE THIS TALK! COME TO COUNCIL PLACE-- HALF WAY DOWN AT NOON! ***ONLY PEACE MEN!***

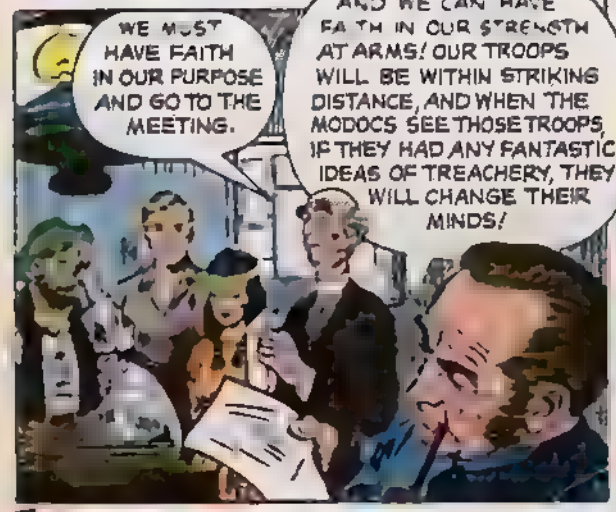
HOW MANY WARRIORS YOU BRING?

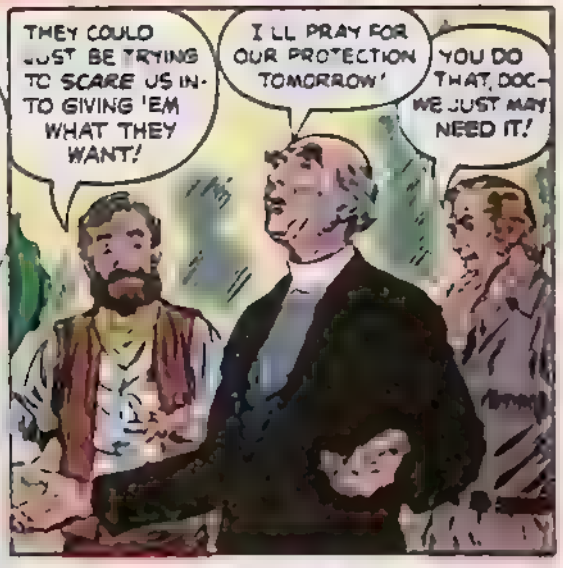
SAME NUMBER GENERAL CANBY DO! BUT ***NO GUNS!***

GOOD! WE TELL PEACE MEN AND WE TELL OUR PEOPLE. THEY WILL BE GLAD.

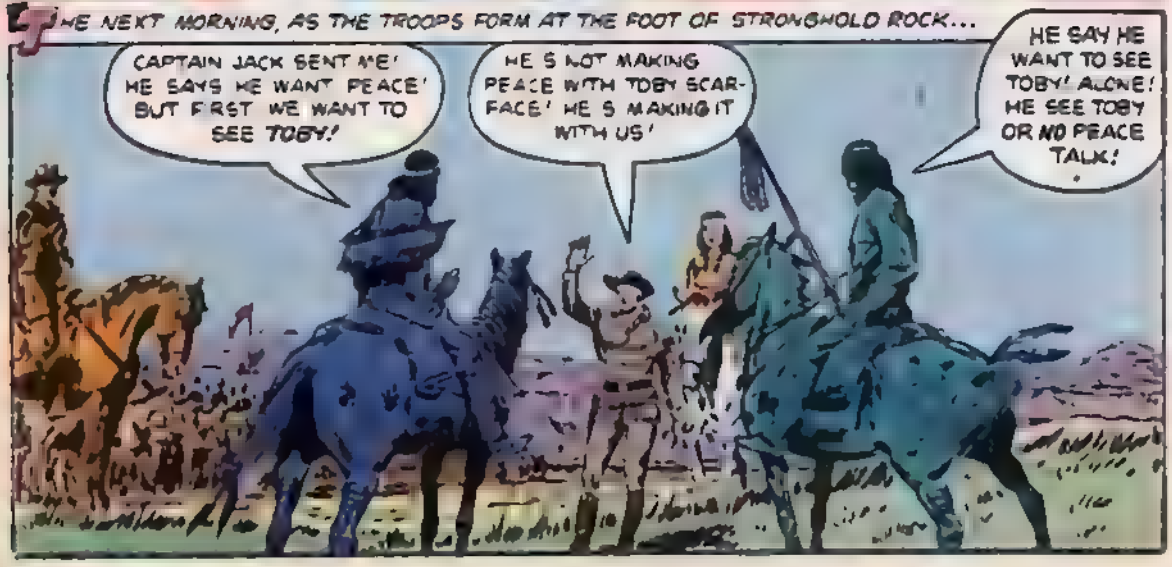


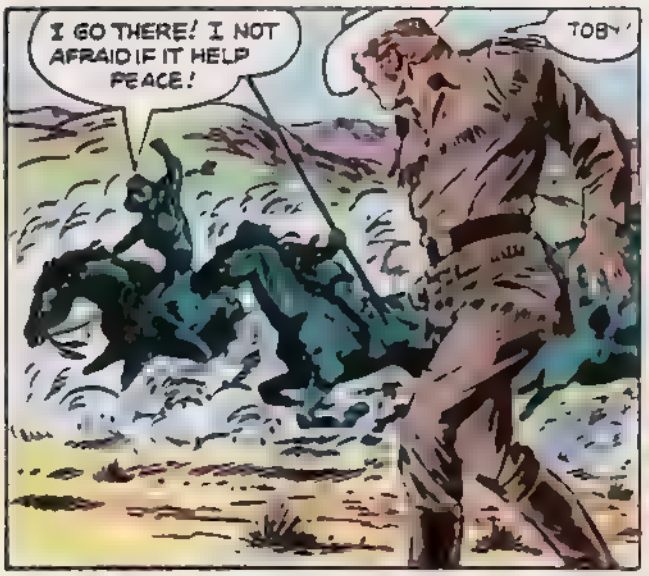
THAT NIGHT, TOBY REPORTS FIRST TO JOHNNY, WHO WARNS THE OTHERS...





THE NEXT MORNING, AS THE TROOPS FORM AT THE FOOT OF STRONGHOLD ROCK...



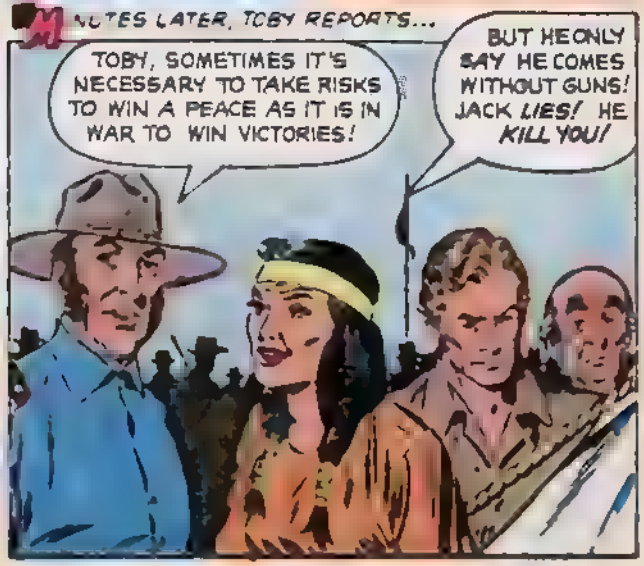

I GO THERE! I NOT AFRAID IF IT HELP PEACE!
TOBY!

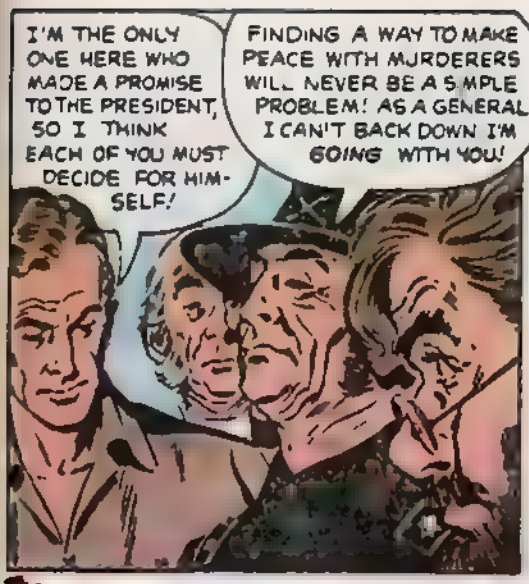
3 CON..
YOU TELL PEACE MEN WE KILL THEM?
YES!

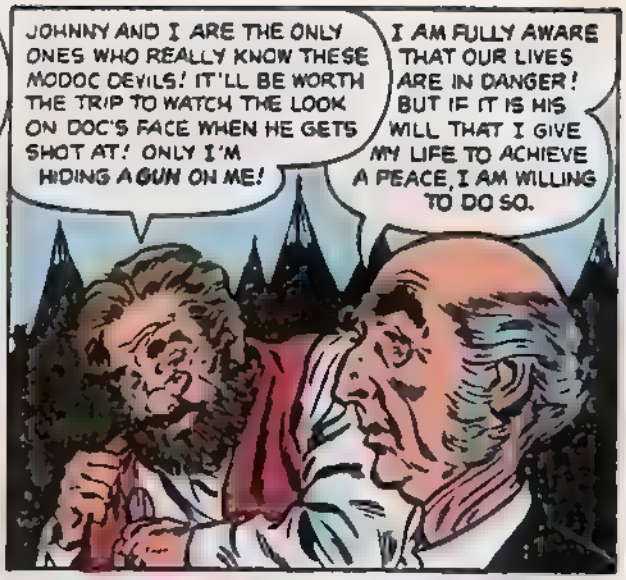
WHO TELL YOU?
THE SPIRITS-- THEY TELL ME

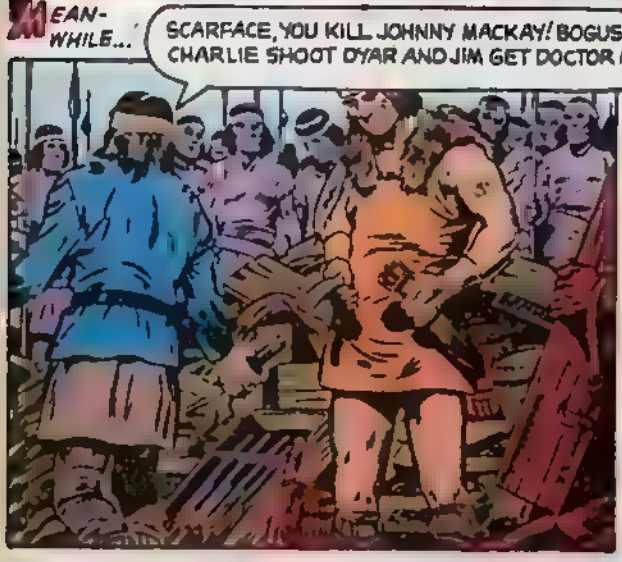
SOMEBODY LIED TO YOU! PEACE MEN NOT GET KILLED! YOU TELL THEM WE NOT TAKE GUNS TO TALK! GO NOW! TELL THEM WE MEAN PEACE!

AND AS TOBY RIDES OUT OF SIGHT...
WIEUM, WE KNOW ALL TIME WHO TALK! YOU TALK NO MORE!

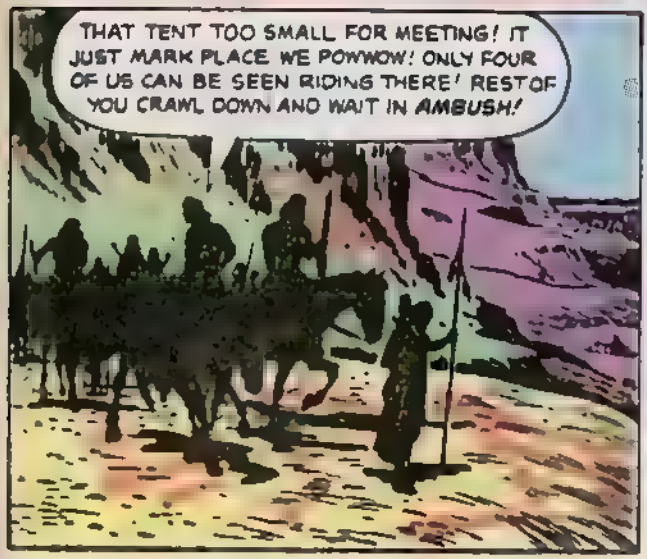

MINUTES LATER, TOBY REPORTS...
TOBY, SOMETIMES IT'S NECESSARY TO TAKE RISKS TO WIN A PEACE AS IT IS IN WAR TO WIN VICTORIES!
BUT HE ONLY SAY HE COMES WITHOUT GUNS! JACK LIES! HE KILL YOU!

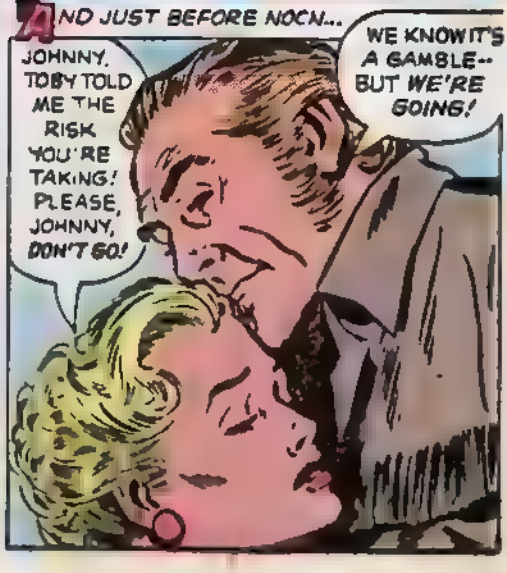

I'M THE ONLY ONE HERE WHO MADE A PROMISE TO THE PRESIDENT, SO I THINK EACH OF YOU MUST DECIDE FOR HIMSELF!
FINDING A WAY TO MAKE PEACE WITH MURDERERS WILL NEVER BE A SIMPLE PROBLEM! AS A GENERAL I CAN'T BACK DOWN I'M GOING WITH YOU!

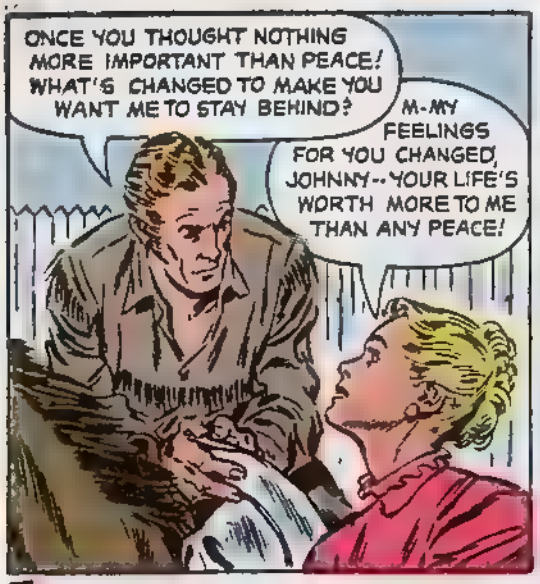

JOHNNY AND I ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO REALLY KNOW THESE MODOC DEVILS! IT'LL BE WORTH THE TRIP TO WATCH THE LOOK ON DOC'S FACE WHEN HE GETS SHOT AT! ONLY I'M HIDING A GUN ON ME!
I AM FULLY AWARE THAT OUR LIVES ARE IN DANGER! BUT IF IT IS HIS WILL THAT I GIVE MY LIFE TO ACHIEVE A PEACE, I AM WILLING TO DO SO.

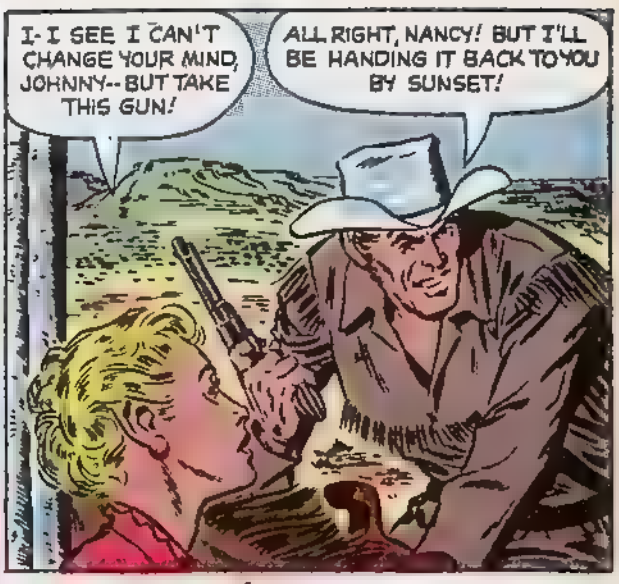

MEANWHILE...
SCARFACE, YOU KILL JOHNNY MACKAY! BOGUS CHARLIE SHOOT DYAR AND JIM GET DOCTOR MAN!

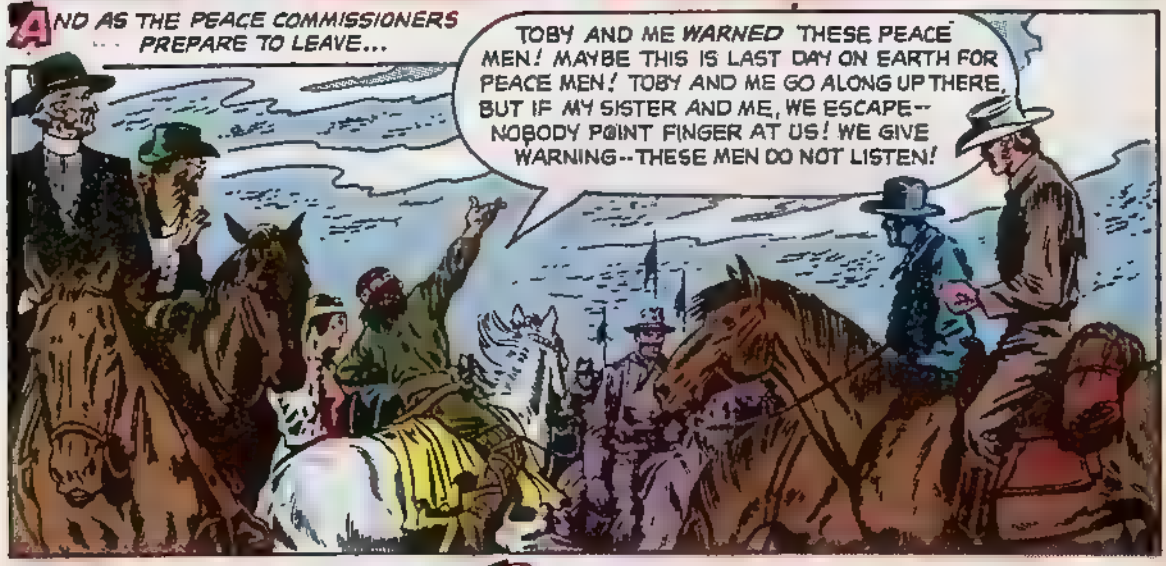
YOU-- WHICH ONE FOR YOU?
THE BIG GENERAL! I KILL HIM MYSELF!


THAT TENT TOO SMALL FOR MEETING! IT JUST MARK PLACE WE POWWOW! ONLY FOUR OF US CAN BE SEEN RIDING THERE! REST OF YOU CRAWL DOWN AND WAIT IN AMBUSH!

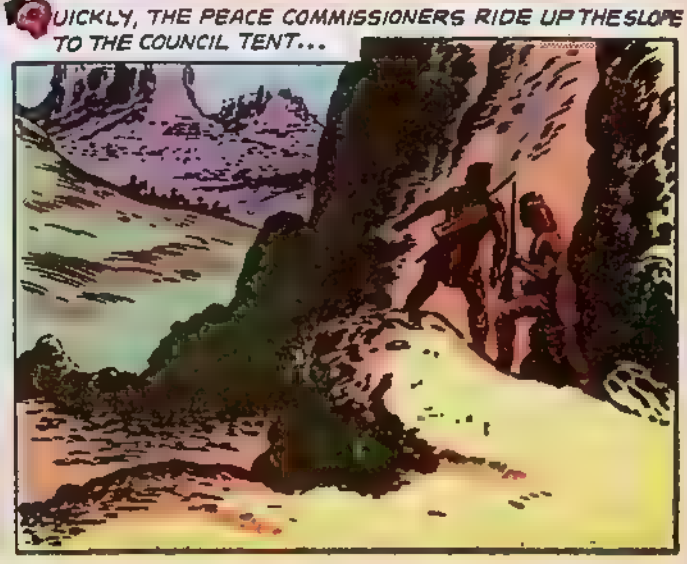

AND JUST BEFORE NOON...
JOHNNY, TOBY TOLD ME THE RISK YOU'RE TAKING! PLEASE, JOHNNY, DON'T GO!
WE KNOW IT'S A GAMBLE-- BUT WE'RE GOING!

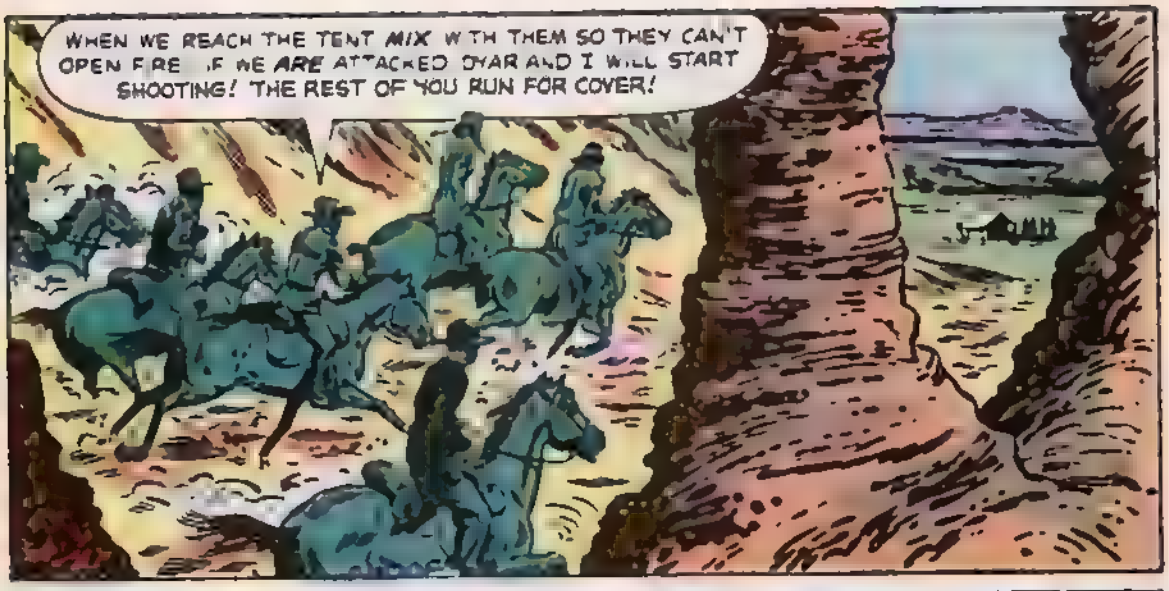

ONCE YOU THOUGHT NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN PEACE! WHAT'S CHANGED TO MAKE YOU WANT ME TO STAY BEHIND?
M-MY FEELINGS FOR YOU CHANGED, JOHNNY--YOUR LIFE'S WORTH MORE TO ME THAN ANY PEACE!

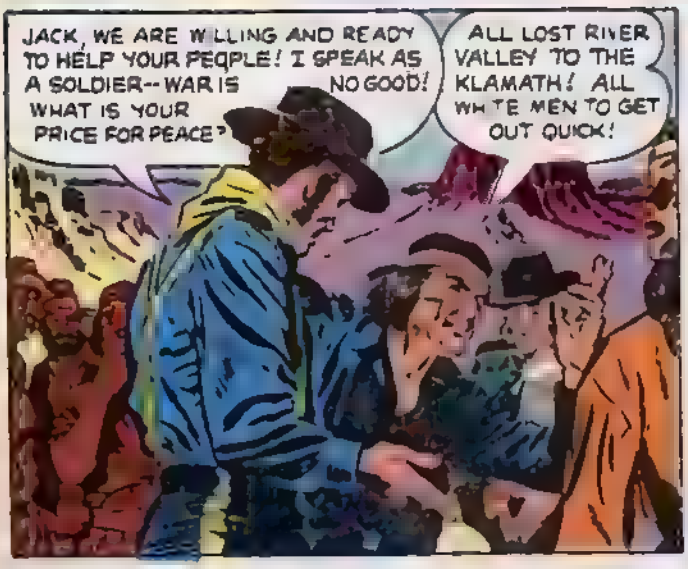

I-I SEE I CAN'T CHANGE YOUR MIND, JOHNNY--BUT TAKE THIS GUN!
ALL RIGHT, NANCY! BUT I'LL BE HANDING IT BACK TO YOU BY SUNSET!


AND AS THE PEACE COMMISSIONERS ... PREPARE TO LEAVE...
TOBY AND ME WARNED THESE PEACE MEN! MAYBE THIS IS LAST DAY ON EARTH FOR PEACE MEN! TOBY AND ME GO ALONG UP THERE, BUT IF MY SISTER AND ME, WE ESCAPE--NOBODY POINT FINGER AT US! WE GIVE WARNING--THESE MEN DO NOT LISTEN!

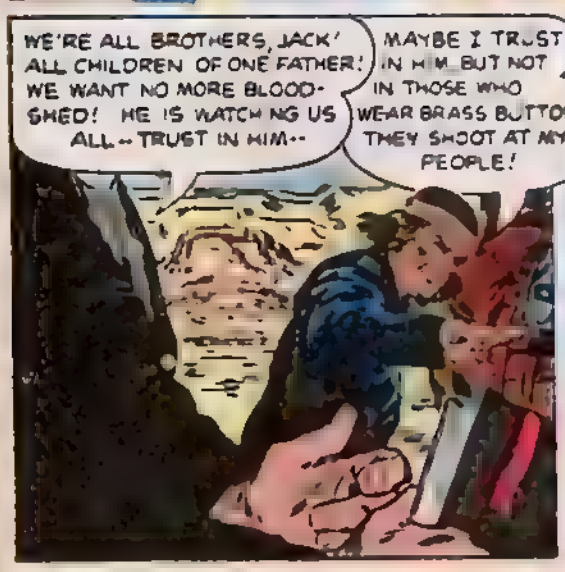
BROTHER OFFICERS AND MEN, SINCE WE ARE ASSURED THIS IS MY LAST DAY ON EARTH--I BID YOU A LAST FAREWELL!


QUICKLY, THE PEACE COMMISSIONERS RIDE UP THE SLOPE TO THE COUNCIL TENT...


WHEN WE REACH THE TENT MIX WITH THEM SO THEY CAN'T OPEN FIRE IF WE ARE ATTACKED OVAR AND I WILL START SHOOTING! THE REST OF YOU RUN FOR COVER!


JACK, WE ARE WILLING AND READY TO HELP YOUR PEOPLE! I SPEAK AS A SOLDIER--WAR IS NO GOOD! WHAT IS YOUR PRICE FOR PEACE?
ALL LOST RIVER VALLEY TO THE KLAMATH! ALL WHITE MEN TO GET OUT QUICK!

THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! SOME OF THOSE SETTLERS HAVE BEEN THERE FOR TWENTY YEARS---
THEY NOT GO, THEY DIE!


WE'RE ALL BROTHERS, JACK! ALL CHILDREN OF ONE FATHER! WE WANT NO MORE BLOOD-SHED! HE IS WATCHING US ALL--TRUST IN HIM--
MAYBE I TRUST IN HIM BUT NOT IN THOSE WHO WEAR BRASS BUTTONS THEY SHOOT AT MY PEOPLE!

THEY VE FIRED ONLY BECAUSE YOUR WARRIORS KILLED EIGHTEEN SETTLERS IN THEIR HOMES AND FIELDS!
LET ME TRY ON YOUR JACKET, MAYBE ME GENERAL JACK NOW, UGH?

I WANT ALL LOST RIVER-- I TAKE IT! WHAT YOU SAY? TALK QUICK!
WE CAME AS FRIENDS, JACK. LET US TALK AND ACT AS FRIENDS!
I TIRED OF TALK! I TALK NO MORE!
OWW!
RUN, TOBY!
OWW!
J-JOHNNY!
BANG!

JOHNNY'S DOWN, THE GENERAL'S DEAD-- AND HERE GOES MY LAST SHOT

NOW TO RUN FOR IT!

PLEASE. . I'M DYING. DON'T SHOOT.
WHERE YOUR FATHER'S MEDICINE? YOU TURN NO BULLETS!

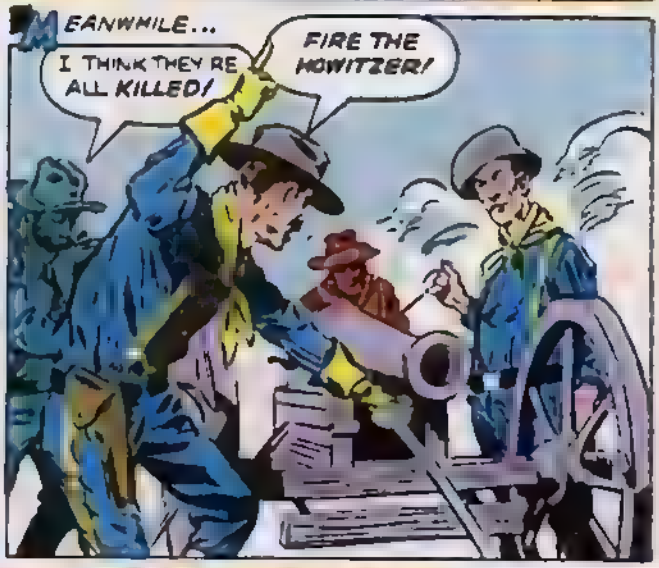
YOU NOT RUN FAR, DYAR!

NOW ONLY JOHNNY LEFT..
NO!

OWW!

NO! LEAVE JOHNNY ALONE!

YOU NOT STOP ME AGAIN, TOBY! I FIX YOU NOW!


MEANWHILE...
I THINK THEY RE ALL KILLED!
FIRE THE HOWITZER!

NOW I TAKE JOHNNY'S SCALP!

BWOOM!
KOTWUMBLA!

KOTWUMBLA!

I HAVE BIG GENERAL'S HORSE! MAKE FOR CAVES!

SOON...

EASY WITH HIM, HE'S BADLY WOUNDED!

MY SISTER IS DEAD!

IN WASHINGTON, AS THE ASSASSINATIONS ARE REPORTED...

PEOPLE ARE SAYING *COMPLETE EXTERMINATION* OF THE MODOCS WOULD BE JUSTIFIABLE NOW SIR!

NO, ONLY THE *MURDERERS* MUST BE *PUNISHED!!* THERE STILL MUST BE PEACE SOME DAY!

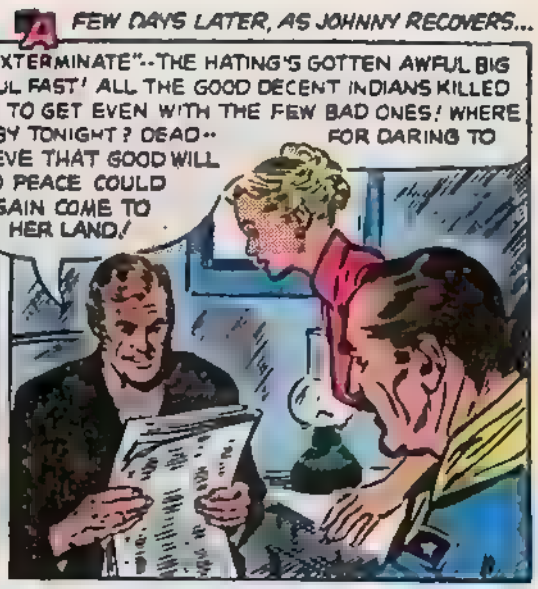
AND AT KLAMATH...

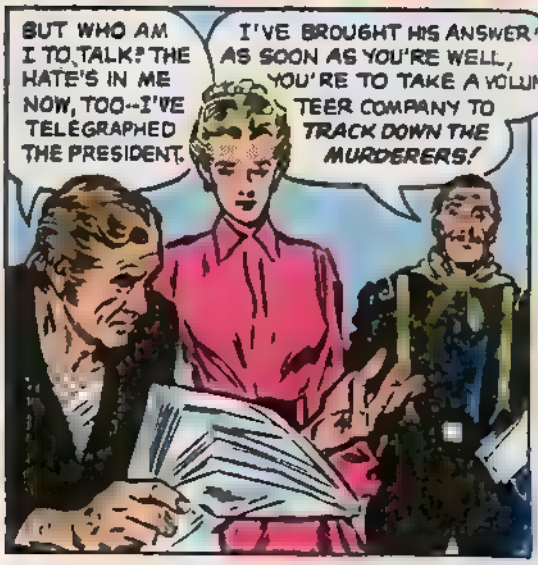
YOU FOOLED THE DOCTORS, JOHNNY--YOU PULLED THROUGH!

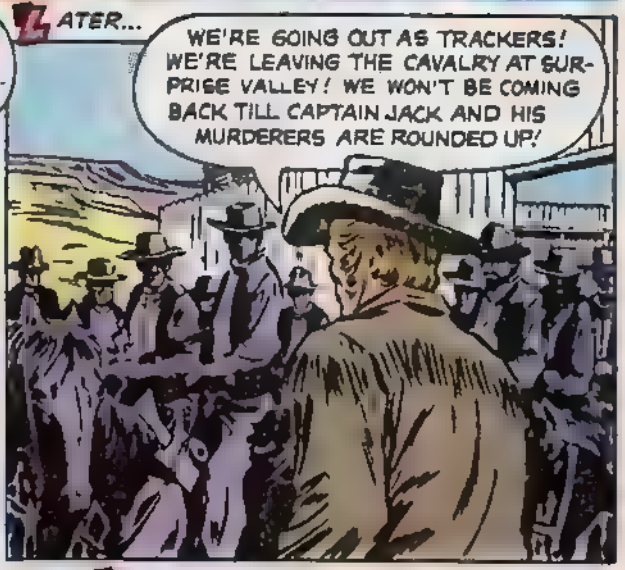
I FEEL WEAK--AWFULLY WEAK!

JUST REST THERE, FELLOW! TONIGHT, I'M LEADING SOME VOLUNTEERS UP THE BACK WAY TO STRONGHOLD ROCK! THE ONLY WAY TO BEAT THE MODOCS IS TO FIGHT THE INJUN WAY! WE'LL SETTLE SCORES!

THAT NIGHT...
GONE! THE WHOLE KIT AND KABOODLE! NOW IT'LL TAKE ALL THE ARMY AND US JUST TO FIND 'EM!


A FEW DAYS LATER, AS JOHNNY RECOVERS...
"EXTERMINATE"--THE HATING'S GOTTEN AWFUL BIG AWFUL FAST! ALL THE GOOD DECENT INDIANS KILLED JUST TO GET EVEN WITH THE FEW BAD ONES! WHERE IS TOBY TONIGHT? DEAD-- FOR DARING TO BELIEVE THAT GOOD WILL AND PEACE COULD AGAIN COME TO HER LAND!


BUT WHO AM I TO TALK? THE HATE'S IN ME NOW, TOO--I'VE TELEGRAPHED THE PRESIDENT.
I'VE BROUGHT HIS ANSWER! AS SOON AS YOU'RE WELL, YOU'RE TO TAKE A VOLUNTEER COMPANY TO TRACK DOWN THE MURDERERS!

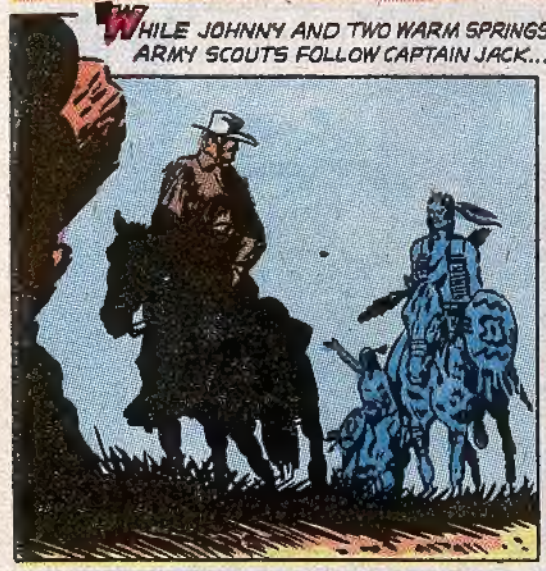

LATER...
WE'RE GOING OUT AS TRACKERS! WE'RE LEAVING THE CAVALRY AT SURPRISE VALLEY! WE WON'T BE COMING BACK TILL CAPTAIN JACK AND HIS MURDERERS ARE ROUNDED UP!

WHAT'S THAT MODOC DOING WITH US?
HE'S TOBY'S BROTHER! SCARFACE KILLED HIS SISTER. HE'S ASKED TO RIDE WITH US! LET'S GO!

SOON...
HE'S TRYING TO OUTSMART US-- HE'S SPLIT UP INTO THREE PARTIES!
WE'LL SPLIT UP INTO THREE GROUPS AND TRACK THEM UNTIL WE CAN PIN 'EM DOWN FOR THE MILITARY!

MANOK AND A DOZEN FRONTIERSMEN PEEL OFF TO TRAIL THE MODOCS UNDER SCARFACE'S COMMAND.

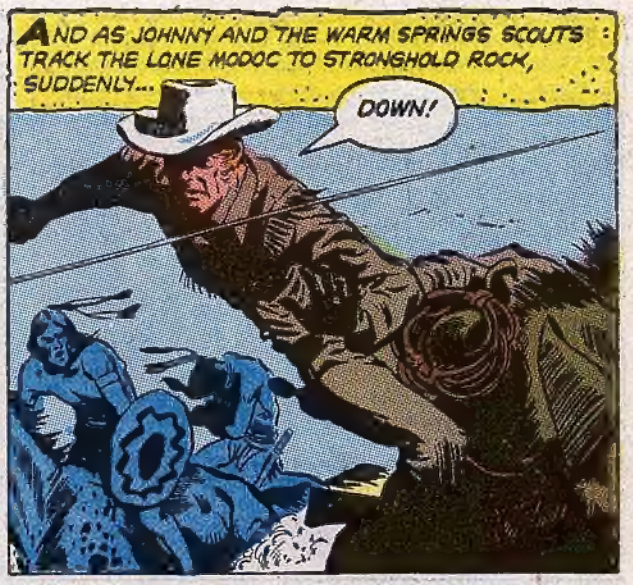
BILL'S MEN TRACK BOGUS CHARLIE'S PARTY...

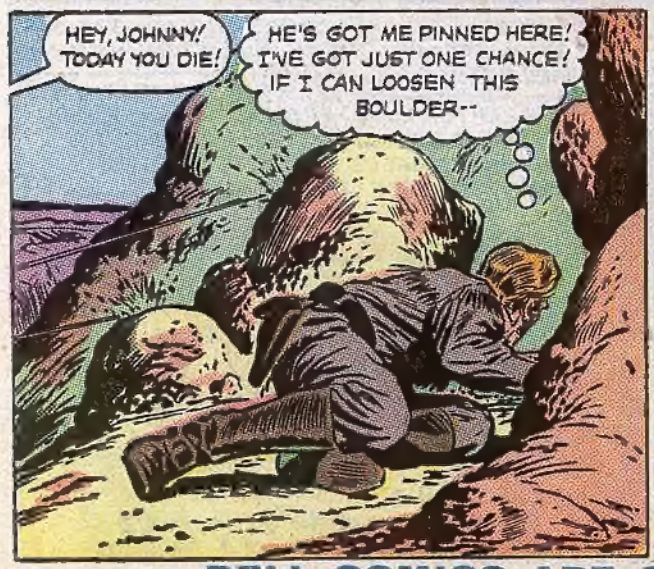

WHILE JOHNNY AND TWO WARM SPRINGS ARMY SCOUTS FOLLOW CAPTAIN JACK...

TWO DAYS LATER, MANOK'S PARTY TRACKS DOWN THE BRAVES LED BY SCARFACE, AND THE CAVALRY CLOSES IN...

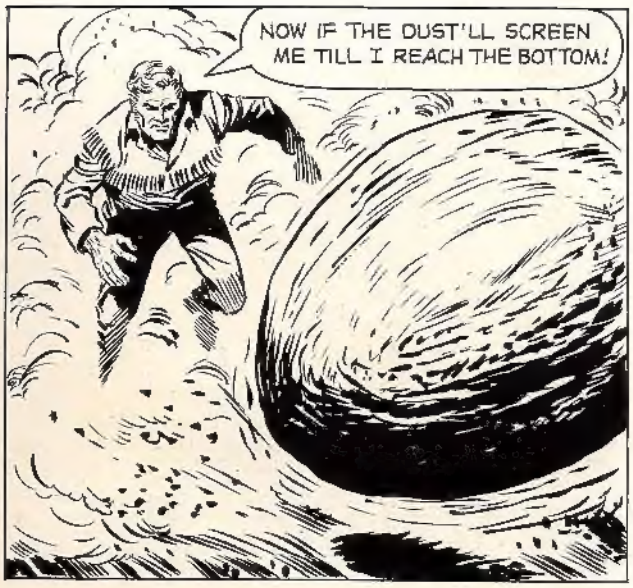
AND AS THE TROOPERS VANQUISH THE MODOCS, MANOK FINDS HIS SISTER'S SLAYER...

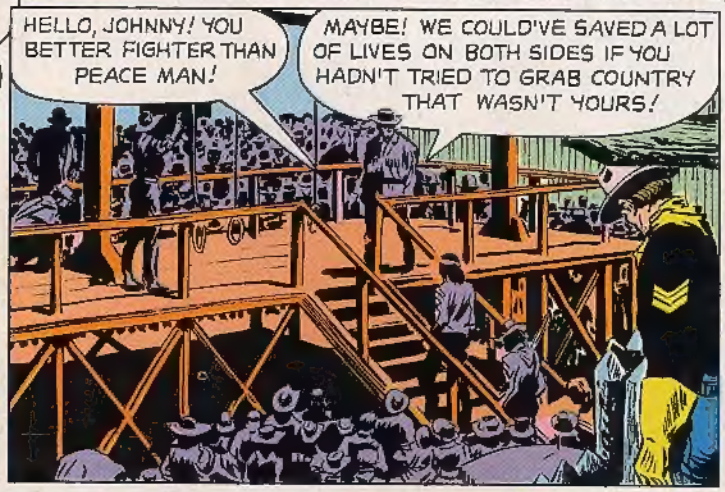
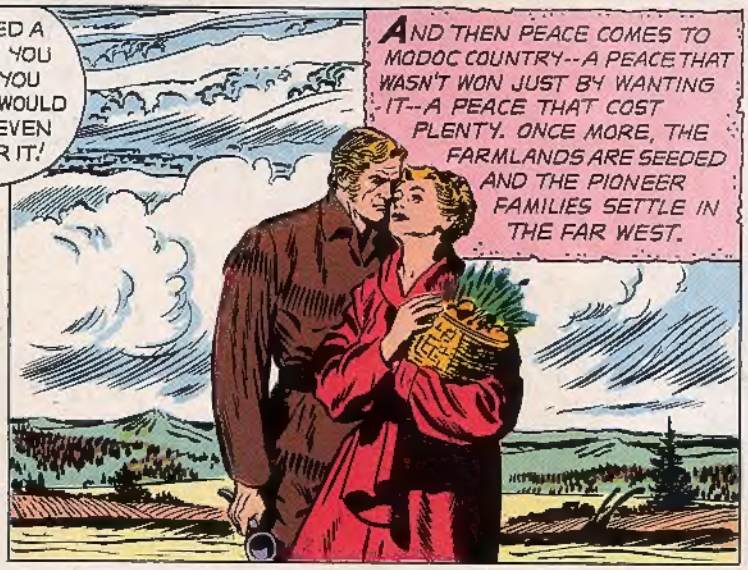
THREE DAYS LATER, DOGGED CLOSELY BY BILL'S TRACKERS AND THE FOLLOWING CAVALRY, BOGUS CHARLIE COMES IN...
NO SLEEP FOR LONG TIME NOW. TOO TIRED FIGHT! YOU TREAT US RIGHT, WE QUIT!
HAVE YOUR PEOPLE PUT DOWN THEIR WEAPONS! I'LL SEE THEY'RE PROTECTED!





DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS



IN A WILD HAND TO HAND FIGHT, THE TWO SLUGGING COMBATANTS REACH THE STREAM...

ONE BY ONE, THE MURDERERS ARE BROUGHT TO TRIAL AND PUNISHED! AND CAPTAIN JACK, PROVEN GUILTY OF KILLING COLONEL MEEK FOR HIS MEDALS, IS THE LAST MODOC TO MOUNT THE SCAFFOLD.